



After deadly shooting, Pittsburgh synagogue plans reopening

By RAMESH SANTANAM

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Leaders of the Pittsburgh synagogue where worshippers were fatally shot last year want to rebuild and renovate the building, turning it into what they hope will be a "center for Jewish life in the United States" and a symbol against hatred.

On Friday, they outlined their vision for the Tree of Life building, where three congregations — Tree of Life, Dor Hadash and New Light — had gathered on Oct. 27, 2018. A gunman opened fire, killing 11 people and wounding seven. The building in the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood has not reopened since the shooting, considered the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history. Tree of Life leaders now envision a rebuilt space that includes places for worship; memorial, education and social events; classrooms and exhibitions. The mission is to fight anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination.

"There was never any doubt that we would go back to the site," Tree of Life Executive Director Barb Feige said. "The congregation is a community. It survives without its building, but is committed to going



In this Monday, Feb. 11, 2019 file photo, a woman passes by the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.
Associated Press

back to that location."

There have been conceptual discussions about the changes to the building, said Tree of Life president

Sam Schachner. Some donations have come in that will be used for the project, and the congregation will engage in a vigorous fun-

draising campaign, he said. No architectural plans have been drawn up, and no construction work has yet taken place.

The building was in need of extensive and costly repairs before the shooting, Feige said.

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Continued from Front

The rebuilding now extends initial plans Tree of Life had to expand cooperation and collaboration among the three congregations and with the community, she said.

Robert Bowers, 47, a truck driver from Baldwin, Pennsylvania, is charged in the attack. Investigators say Bowers used an AR-15 rifle and other weapons, and that he criticized a Jewish charity on social media before the massacre, claiming the immigrant aid society "likes to bring invaders that kill our people." Police said Bowers also expressed hatred of Jews during and after the rampage.

Federal prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. Bowers' lawyers said this week that the case would be over by now if the prosecutors had accepted his offer to plead guilty in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

The government's decision to seek the death penalty disappointed some of the people most affected by

the massacre, including members of Dor Hadash. The rabbi of New Light Congregation, which had three members slain in the attack, also expressed his opposition to a death sentence. Tree Of Life has said it is confident justice will be served.

That collaboration likely will include the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh's moving into the building, where neighboring Chatham University also hopes to share space, Feige said.

"We are poised to become an incredible center for Jewish life in the United States," Tree of Life's Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, who was leading Shabbat services when the shooting started, said in a statement. "When we reopen, and we most certainly will, I want the entire world to say, 'Wow, look at what they have done.' To do anything less disrespects the memory of our 11 martyrs."

There will be a memorial for the 11 victims, but whether that will be the city's public memorial remains to be determined. Leaders have



In this Oct. 29, 2018 file photo, a police vehicle is posted near the Tree of Life/Or L'Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

met with experts on the Holocaust and 9/11 memorials to discuss a public memorial for the Tree of Life shooting, and have been advised to take their time, Feige said.

"Regardless where that is located, whether it is our site or not, we will obviously include in our plan a memorial, if not the memorial, to the 11 souls that were lost," she said. She called the eight men and three women killed "stalwarts of the three congregations."

"I think part of our desire is to honor them and their commitment," she added. "Is it sort of the-bad-guys-win-if-we-don't-go-back? There is a little bit of that."

The next steps include hiring a strategic planning consultant well versed in the Jewish community and in building collaborative and space-sharing plans.

"It's a bit of a unicorn in the skills set, but hopefully we can find someone who can lead us," she said.

Synagogue leaders will consider the thoughts and ideas about the building's future shared by the victims' family members, witnesses, members from all three congregations, community leaders, and others during several "listening sessions," Tree of Life said in its statement.

The Jewish community and the city will hold a commemoration on Sunday, Oct. 27 — exactly one year after the shooting. Events will include a private Jewish service in the morning, community service in the city, studying the portion of the Torah that was to be read when the shooting happened, and a public memorial service in the evening.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has ordered state flags to fly at half-staff on all state facilities, public buildings and grounds on that day. He also signed a proclamation declaring Oct. 27 as a day of remembrance. Chuck Diamond, Tree of Life's former rabbi, said returning to the building will not only provide a stand against hatred, but also hope for Pittsburgh and other communities affected by mass shootings.

"When people pass by that corner, you can't help but think of what happened and the poor souls who lost their lives. And it's sad," Diamond said. "To rebuild, inspired by those wonderful people and their memories, and by honoring their memories, it sends a positive message to the entire world."

He spent 10 years in the building, which has been the scene of many joyous occasions — weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, parties and baby-naming ceremonies.

"That is what it should be remembered for, all the wonderful things," Diamond said. "The community would like to see it as a center for Jewish life, a symbol that nothing is going to keep us down, like we have been doing for centuries." □

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Authorities: 2 Iowa deputies and suspect wounded in shootout



Authorities investigate the scene after multiple law enforcement officers were shot Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019 in Stuart, Iowa.

Associated Press

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STUART, Iowa (AP) — A man opened fire on sheriff's deputies serving a warrant at a central Iowa apart-

The shooting occurred at around 10:40 p.m. Thursday in Stuart, about 35 miles (57 kilometers) west of Des Moines.

Authorities on Friday identified the injured officers as Guthrie County Sheriff's Deputies Steven Henry and Jim Mink, and the suspect as 52-year-old Randall Comly.

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation said Comly began shooting at the deputies and a local police officer after they were let into the apartment. They returned fire, wounding Comly, who surrendered after a roughly 90-minute standoff. □

Tropical Storm Nestor forms, threatening US Gulf Coast

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)

— Newly formed Tropical Storm Nestor bore down on the northern Gulf Coast with high winds, surging seas and heavy rains Friday, threatening to hit an area of the Florida Panhandle devastated one year ago by Hurricane Michael. But unlike Michael, a powerful storm that left thousands of people homeless and nearly wiped the Panhandle city of Mexico Beach off the map, Florida wasn't bracing for a catastrophe.

"We've done very little preparation only because there's nothing really to prepare for," said Mexico City Beach Mayor Al Cathey. "We haven't seen any alarm at all."

As of Friday evening, the state had activated its emergency operations center, but only at its lowest level. In an area that's recently gone weeks without rain, the storm was seen more as a welcome sight. "You have to keep it in perspective: 75 percent of our city was destroyed," Cathey said. "A little rain is welcome. Hopefully it won't be something crazy, but if that's all it is, I can deal



A group of people watch as a pigeons spooked by a dog take flight on the beach at Okaloosa Island near Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

with that. There's nothing in this system that I've seen that tells me Mexico Beach needs to be alarmed." Nestor was forecast to hit the coast around Mexico Beach on Saturday morning without strengthening into a hurricane. Blasted by Michael in October 2018, the area is still trying to recover.

The National Hurricane Center said high winds and dangerous storm surge were likely along parts of

the northern Gulf Coast, plus heavy rain that could help a parched region dealing with a drought. Conditions were expected to deteriorate along the coast late Friday into early Saturday. Events including high school football games were canceled or postponed, but officials were trying to calm fears of a hard hit similar to Hurricane Michael last year. Forecasters said that as of 4 p.m. Friday, the storm was

about 150 miles (240 kilometers) south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River — or about 280 miles (450 kilometers) southwest of Panama City, Florida. It had top sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph) and was moving to the northeast at 22 mph (35 kph).

A tropical storm warning was in effect from Navarre, Florida, to Yankeetown, Florida. A storm surge warning is in effect for Indian Pass, Florida, to Clearwater

Beach, Florida. Forecasters expect blustery winds and heavy rain in parts of Alabama, Georgia and northern Florida, reaching the Carolinas and Virginia by Sunday.

The Coast Guard said 20-foot (6-meter) seas were possible around Panama City, and dangerous rip currents were possible along beaches during what is still a busy tourism period.

In New Orleans, winds hampered crews that were trying to place explosives to topple damaged construction cranes towering over a partially collapsed hotel project at the edge of the French Quarter. Officials delayed plans to bring down the structures before Nestor approached.

"We're working as fast as possible," said Fire Chief Tim McConnell.

High schools from Alabama to the eastern Florida Panhandle called off football games scheduled for Friday night, and officials in Panama City tried to assure residents that the storm wouldn't be a repeat of Category 5 Hurricane Michael last year.

"We are optimistic this will be a slight wind and rain event," said Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford. □

Cohen turns to Congress in bid to shorten prison sentence

By JIM MUSTIAN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's imprisoned former lawyer, Michael Cohen, is again turning to Congress as part of a renewed bid to reduce his prison sentence.

Cohen's lawyers sent a letter to the Democratic heads of three congressional committees last month urging them to ask U.S. District Judge William H. Pauley III to cut the length of his three-year prison term, and allow Cohen to serve his time at his New York City apartment.

The letter said Cohen deserved leniency because of the "substantial assistance" he had provided to congressional committees scrutinizing Trump. It said



In this Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, file photo, Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer, reacts as he finishes a day of testimony to the House Oversight and Reform Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

sending him home from a prison 70 miles outside the city would make him more easily accessible to investigators.

"There is no discernible se-

curity risk whatsoever to Judge Pauley granting such a request for a first offender who was convicted of a non-violent crime," said the Sept. 16 letter, ad-

dressed to U.S. Reps. Adam Schiff, Jerrold Nadler and Elijah Cummings. Cummings died this week following longstanding health challenges. Cohen last year pleaded guilty to several charges, including tax evasion, lying to Congress and breaking campaign finance laws by arranging payments to porn actress Stormy Daniels and Playboy centerfold Karen McDougal to keep them quiet about alleged affairs with Trump. The president has denied any sexual relationship with either woman and said any payments were personal matters, not campaign expenses.

After he was sentenced, Cohen testified in several Congressional inquiries about what he said was

dishonesty by Trump in his business affairs. Federal law allows prosecutors to file a so-called Rule 35 motion asking a judge to shorten the sentence of a defendant who provides "substantial assistance in investigating or prosecuting another person."

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, notes that prosecutors have so far shown no interest in intervening on Cohen's behalf. But it asserts that a request to reduce a sentence is not restricted to "line prosecutors or the Department of Justice."

Lanny Davis, one of Cohen's attorneys, said Cohen is still willing to meet with prosecutors to discuss an array of subjects and potential criminal targets. □

Jury recommends death penalty for 'Boy Next Door Killer'

By ANDREW DALTON
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Los Angeles jury recommended the death penalty Friday for a man dubbed "The Boy Next Door Killer" after he was found guilty of two murders and an attempted murder.

The victims of Michael Gargiulo, 43, included 22-year-old Ashley Ellerin, who was killed on a night in 2001

when she had plans with actor Ashton Kutcher. He testified during the trial that he arrived late for his date with Ellerin, looked into her house when there was no answer at the door, and saw what he thought were wine stains before leaving. Gargiulo showed no reaction as the court clerk read the death sentence at the brief hearing. Jurors also could have rec-

ommended life in prison with no possibility of parole. His attorney Daniel Nardoni said outside court that he was angered and disappointed by the decision.

"You don't kill people that are mentally ill," Nardoni said. "It's just a matter of humanity. There's a different kind of punishment for the mentally ill. It's called life without parole."

Defense attorneys and a psychologist said in court that Gargiulo has dissociative personality disorder, formerly known as multiple personality disorder.

Prosecutors, who did not talk to reporters after the hearing, called Gargiulo "The Boy Next Door Killer" because he lived near all the victims. He also was convicted of the 2005 murder of 32-year-old Maria Bruno and the 2008 attempted murder of Michelle Murphy, who testified during the trial's penalty phase that she lived in fear for years after the attack.

Murphy fought when she was attacked in bed in her Santa Monica apartment. Authorities said Gargiulo cut himself and left a trail of blood that allowed prosecutors to tie him to the oth-



Michael Gargiulo listens as the death penalty is announced during the sentencing phase of his trial in Los Angeles Superior Court for the killings of two women and the attempted murder of a third, on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

er cases, including a 1997 killing in Illinois for which he is still awaiting trial. Murphy was also a key witness during the first phase of the trial.

"In the days, weeks and months after it happened, I barely even slept," Murphy testified. "I feared the nighttime and going to bed. I still slept with the lights on for a long time."

Gargiulo's attorneys contended that other men committed the murders of Bruno and Ellerin. They conceded their client had attacked Murphy but said he was in a "fugue state" because of his personality

disorder and did not know where he was at the time. All three women were attacked in their Southern California homes when Gargiulo lived nearby and watched his victims. Ellerin became an acquaintance before the attacks. Ellerin's mother and other victims' family members also testified during the penalty phase.

When she learned about the death of her daughter, Cynthia Ellerin said, "I fell to my knees on the floor and started crawling around the bedroom on my hands and knees like an animal, screaming." □

Bicycle deliveryman acquitted in fatal stabbing of developer

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A jury found a Philadelphia bicycle deliveryman not guilty Thursday of voluntary manslaughter in the fatal stabbing of a real estate developer in a case that carried racial implications.

The jury agreed that 22-year-old Michael White acted in self-defense in the July 2018 stabbing of 37-year-old Sean Schellenger during a confrontation sparked by a traffic dispute near the city's upscale Rittenhouse Square neighborhood.

Jurors found White guilty of tampering with evidence — charges that stemmed from throwing the knife onto a roof as he fled and disposing of his bloody clothes.

The jury started deliberations Wednesday afternoon after hearing three days of testimony in which both sides largely agreed on the facts.

White, who is black, did not know Schellenger, who was white, and was not involved in the traffic dispute. Schellenger had been drinking with friends at a nearby restaurant before the confrontation with White, who was riding past the traffic dispute on his way to deliver food.

Prosecutors argued that White inserted himself and escalated the argument by pulling a knife. They showed the jury cellphone video taken by a witness. White testified that he pulled the knife in self-defense. His attorneys argued

that Schellenger, a former Penn State University football player, was physically intimidating and intoxicated.

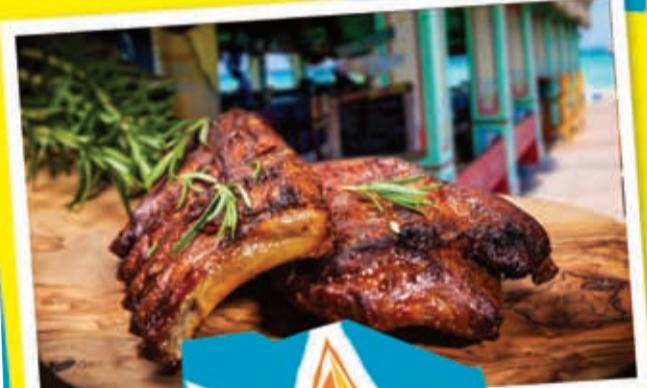
White said Schellenger made a racial remark as the altercation started, saying he threatened to, "beat the black off" of him. Prosecutors argued no witnesses corroborated the remark. Members of both White and Schellenger's families were in the courtroom Thursday and during most of the trial.

The prosecutor's office had twice downgraded the potential charges against White, including a move last week asking a judge to drop third-degree murder charges. Schellenger's mother strongly criticized the decisions. □

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Messages from former Boeing test pilot reveal Max concerns

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — A former senior Boeing test pilot told a co-worker that he unknowingly misled safety regulators about problems with a flight-control system that would later be implicated in two deadly crashes of the company's 737 Max. The pilot, Mark Forkner, told another Boeing employee in 2016 that the flight system, called MCAS, was "egregious" and "running rampant" while he tested it in a flight simulator.

"So I basically lied to the regulators (unknowingly)," wrote Forkner, then Boeing's chief technical pilot for the 737.

The exchange occurred as Boeing was trying to convince the Federal Aviation Administration that MCAS was safe. MCAS was designed at least in part to prevent the Max from stalling in some situations. The FAA certified the plane without fully understanding MCAS, according to a panel of international safety regulators.

Forkner also lobbied FAA to remove mention of MCAS from the operating manual and pilot training for the Max, saying the system would only operate in rare circumstances. FAA allowed Boeing to do so, and most pilots did not know about MCAS until after the first crash, which occurred in October 2018 in Indonesia. The plane was grounded worldwide in March after the second crash, in Ethiopia.

Boeing turned over a transcript of the messages to



In this May 8, 2019, file photo a Boeing 737 MAX 8 jetliner being built for Turkish Airlines takes off on a test flight in Renton, Wash.

Congress and the Transportation Department late Thursday, and the reaction was swift and negative.

"We have received hundreds of thousands of pages of documents from Boeing, but not this one. This was intentionally withheld from us, which is absolutely outrageous," House Transportation Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., said in an interview Friday. He called it a smoking gun of Boeing wrongdoing.

FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson demanded an explanation from Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg, including why the company delayed several months before telling FAA about the messages.

"I expect your explanation immediately regarding the content of this document and Boeing's delay in disclosing the document to its safety regulator," Dickson

wrote in a terse, three-sentence letter to Muilenburg. In a statement, the FAA said it "finds the substance of the document concerning" and is deciding what action to take in response. Boeing turned over the transcript to the Justice Department earlier this year but gave it to Congress only this week in anticipation of Muilenburg's scheduled Oct. 30 testimony before DeFazio's committee, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Boeing, in a prepared statement, said the transcript contained the communications of a former employee. Although Boeing didn't identify Forkner, he left last year and joined Southwest Airlines — the biggest operator of the Boeing 737.

Forkner's lawyer, David Gerger, said that Forkner was indicating in messages to a colleague that

the flight simulator was not working like the plane.

"If you read the whole chat, it is obvious that there was no 'lie,'" he said. "Mark's career — at Air Force, at FAA, and at Boeing — was about safety. And based on everything he knew, he absolutely thought this plane was safe."

Separate Boeing documents that were disclosed Friday also outlined Forkner's role in communicating with the FAA and removing mention of MCAS from pilot-training requirements for the Max. When the FAA agreed, that helped Boeing sell the Max by holding down the cost airlines would incur to retrain their crews.

In a November 2016 email to an FAA employee whose identity was blacked out, Forkner indicated he was traveling around the world, "jedi-mind tricking regulators into accepting the

training that I got accepted by FAA."

The disclosure of the internal Boeing communications comes just a week after international regulators faulted the company for not doing more to keep FAA informed about MCAS, a new automated flight system that was not included in previous versions of the 737.

Before crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, MCAS was activated by a single faulty sensor and pushed the nose of each plane down. Pilots were unable to regain control. The idea that a plane could crash because of one bad sensor — with no backup — is emerging as a key criticism of Boeing's design of the Max and FAA's certification of the plane.

"We weren't sure whether to blame FAA or Boeing or a combination" for the so-called single point of failure, DeFazio said. "Things have just tilted very, very heavily in terms of Boeing and deliberate concealment."

Boeing is updating software and computers to tie MCAS to two sensors instead of one, and to make the nose-down command less powerful and easier for pilots to overcome.

Boeing issued a statement Friday afternoon, saying that its CEO had called FAA Administrator Dickson to respond to his concerns. "Mr. Muilenburg assured the Administrator that we are taking every step possible to safely return the MAX to service," the company said. □

Chicago's mayor says top cop drinking before incident in car

By DON BABWIN

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago's mayor said Friday that the city's top police officer told her he'd had "a couple of drinks with dinner" before he fell asleep at a stop sign while driving home, an incident that the chief contends was related to a change in his blood pressure medication.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot told the Chicago Sun-Times that she agreed with Superintendent Eddie Johnson's decision to request an internal affairs investigation of the Thursday incident to assure the public he's not trying to hide anything about his actions. Officers responded to a 911 call from a passerby reporting that someone was asleep in a vehicle at a stop sign. "It was the right thing to call for an investigation...." Lightfoot told the paper. "We'll see how that plays itself out." After the newspaper's report, department spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement that, "While we have no indication of impropriety at this time, this question can only be answered by the internal affairs investigation." On Thursday evening Johnson told reporters that he was driving home at about



In this March 26, 2019, file photo, Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson speaks during a news conference in Chicago.

12:30 that morning, after having let his driver go home to his family, when he felt lightheaded. He said he pulled over and fell asleep. The responding officers found Johnson slumped over but allowed him to drive home and did not administer a breathalyzer test or a field sobriety test. Johnson said officers do such tests only when a motorist appears impaired or officers smell alcohol or cannabis.

He said the medical epi-

sode was the result of not following doctor's orders. "When he adjusted my medication, I took the old medication for high blood pressure, but I failed to put the new medication in," he said.

During a news conference with then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel in early 2017, Johnson had to be helped to a seat after he wobbled and appeared to be about ready to fall to the ground. The Thursday episode is just the latest scare for John-

son, who was diagnosed decades ago with a kidney condition, which two years ago led to a transplant — with his son as the donor. Earlier this year he was hospitalized for a blood clot.

In her comments, Lightfoot said that Johnson told her about how he had just changed medication, and said she has "no reason to doubt" his account of what happened.

"We know he's had some medical issues," she told the Sun-Times. "he's on the oth-

Associated Press

er side of a kidney (transplant) operation, which is obviously very, very serious. There have been some issues with high blood pressure, and so forth."

She also said that she knows from dealing with her parents that she knows that certain medications have side effects. "So I take him at his word."

She also did not condemn Johnson for having some drinks with dinner. "He's a grown man," she said. "He had a couple of drinks with dinner." Johnson has been trying to restore public confidence in the department shattered by the 2015 release of the now infamous dashcam video of the fatal 2014 police shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald, both of which happened before he became superintendent. He said he wanted to take steps that would assure the public that his account was accurate.

The investigation into Johnson will be handled by the public integrity unit within the department's internal affairs division, police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said Friday. That unit is comprised of officers who are detailed to the FBI and work out of the FBI's Chicago office. □

Wisconsin students walk out to protest racial slur firing

By TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Students at a Wisconsin high school skipped class Friday and marched through the streets of the state capital to protest the firing of a black security guard who was terminated for repeating a racial slur while telling a student not to call him that word.

Scores of Madison West High School students walked out of class around 10 a.m. to protest the firing. Madison Police Department officials didn't respond to The Associated Press' request for a crowd count but told the Wisconsin State Journal newspaper that about 1,500 people participated.

A WISC-TV livestream of the walkout showed what appeared to be scores of students marching through

around the building, chanting "Hey-hey, hey-ho, zero tolerance has got to go!" and "Do Better!"



Marlon Anderson poses for a photo Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019 in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press

the streets. They walked to the Madison school district offices and marched laps

Security guard Marlon Anderson, 48, said he was responding to a call Oct. 9

about a disruptive student at West. He said the student, who is black, called him obscenities, including the N-word. Anderson said he told the student multiple times not to call him that, repeating the slur during the confrontation.

Madison schools have a zero-tolerance policy on employees saying racial slurs. Anderson was fired Wednesday.

Anderson said he was just trying to defend himself and that context matters. The Madison teachers union has filed a grievance with the district on his behalf.

During his time at East and West high schools, Anderson said students have used that slur against him

"many times," and that it has resulted in "restorative conversations" in which he explains the history, context and meaning of the word. Last school year, at least seven Madison School District staff members resigned or were fired after using a racial slur in front of students.

West Principal Karen Boran said the zero-tolerance approach has been applied consistently.

The district school board president, Gloria Reyes, said in a statement Friday that she wants the board to review its policy on racial slurs as soon as possible. She said she also has directed district staff to handle Anderson's grievance quickly. □



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Nebraska court rejects lethal injection protocol challenge

By GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The lethal injection protocol that was used in 2018 to execute a Nebraska prisoner withstood a legal challenge Friday from death penalty opponents who hoped to prevent the state from carrying out capital punishment.

The Nebraska Supreme Court sided with state officials who adopted the new protocol in 2017 to allow the state to resume executions.

Death penalty opponents, including state Sen. Ernie Chambers, alleged in their lawsuit that officials created the protocol without following state laws and procedures. The court declined to weigh in on those arguments, ruling instead that Chambers and the Rev. Stephen Griffith didn't have the necessary legal standing to bring the case. "We find that the district court correctly dismissed the action without reaching the merits, because plaintiffs lack standing un-



This July 7, 2010 file photo, shows Nebraska's lethal injection chamber at the State Penitentiary in Lincoln, Neb.

der (state law) to bring the claims they have asserted," Justice Jonathan Papik wrote in the opinion.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska, which represented Chambers

and Griffith in the lawsuit, noted that the ruling didn't address their core arguments about the protocol. "Today's decision leaves many important questions unanswered about the De-

partment of Corrections' hasty and secretive process for establishing new lethal injection protocols," said Danielle Conrad, the group's executive director. "While we respect that Ne-

braskaans of goodwill hold different viewpoints on the death penalty, these and other concerns about transparency, accountability and fairness will persist beyond this case."

Chambers and Griffith say the corrections department didn't give them access to "working copies" of the proposed protocol or estimates of how much it would cost. Without that information, they contend, they were denied the opportunity to give "informed testimony" during a public hearing on the protocol.

A spokeswoman for the Nebraska attorney general's office, which represented the corrections department, said state officials were pleased with the ruling.

The new protocol gives the state corrections director broad authority to decide which drugs to use in executions and how to obtain them. Nebraska's previous protocol called for three specific drugs, including some that were unavailable to the state. □

Real estate developer gets 1 month in college bribery case

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A California real estate developer was sentenced Friday to one month in prison for paying \$75,000 to cheat on his daughter's college entrance exam.

Robert Flaxman, 63, of Los Angeles, was sentenced in Boston's federal court after pleading guilty in May to a single count of fraud and conspiracy. He is the 10th parent to be sentenced in a widespread college bribery scheme. Authorities say Flaxman paid \$75,000 to have a test proctor feed his daughter answers on her ACT exam in 2016. She

scored a 28 out of 36 on the test, placing her in the 89th percentile and improving 4 points over her previous score on the exam. Flaxman's daughter used the score to apply to several schools and ultimately enrolled at one of them, prosecutors said. They did not identify where she goes to college but said the school suspended her for a semester when the scheme was uncovered. In earlier court documents, the FBI also accused Flaxman of paying an admissions consultant \$250,000 to fabricate application documents that were used to get his son into

the University of San Diego. Those allegations were not pursued, however, and they weren't included in Flaxman's plea agreement with prosecutors. Prosecutors said he deserved prison time, nonetheless, because his daughter ended up getting involved in the scheme, and because Flaxman sought a tax deduction for the \$75,000 bribe, which was funneled through a sham charity. More than 50 people have been charged in the scheme, which involves wealthy and famous parents accused of paying bribes to rig their children's



In this March 29, 2019, file photo, Robert Flaxman, founder and CEO of Crown Realty & Development, leaves the federal courthouse in Boston after a hearing in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal.

Associated Press

test scores or to get them admitted to elite universities as recruited athletes. A total of 15 parents have

pledged guilty, while 19 are contesting the charges. Trials are expected to begin in 2020. □

Marches and strikes rattle Catalonia amid separatist anger

By ARITZ PARRA

EMILIO MORENATTI

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Masses of flag-waving demonstrators demanding Catalonia's independence and the release from prison of separatist leaders jammed downtown Barcelona on Friday as the northeastern Spanish region endured its fifth straight day of unrest.

More than a half million protesters, including families with children, marched in the Catalan capital, according to local police. Many were clad in pro-independence 'estelada' flags and shouted "Independence!" and "Freedom for political prisoners!"

Some of them had walked for three days in five massive "freedom marches" from towns across the northeastern Spanish region. They converged on Barcelona, a city of 1.6 million people, and joined students and workers who also took to the streets during a 24-hour general strike.

More than 200 people have been injured and nearly 100 arrested since separatist sentiment surged on Monday, when the Supreme Court sentenced to lengthy prison terms nine separatist politicians and activists. The nine had led a 2017 push for independence that triggered Spain's deepest political



Protesters march with a letters reading 'Democracy' on the fifth day of protests over the conviction of a dozen Catalan independence leaders in Barcelona, Spain, Friday, Oct. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

crisis in decades.

This week's huge show of support at times turned violent, with some protesters and riot police fighting running battles.

On Friday, the demonstrations were mostly peaceful, though police clashed with a few hundred young protesters who hurled bottles, eggs and paint at the gates of the police headquarters in the center of the city. Large trash containers were burned before police responded by shooting rubber bullets to disperse the crowds.

Albert Ramón, a 43-year-old public servant joining a Friday rally in the northern

city of Girona, said the convictions — including fines for three more separatists — had soured the political climate.

"These verdicts violate fundamental rights and hence people are reacting," Ramón said.

The separatist movement is proud of its history of mostly peaceful campaigning. Officials have accused a relatively small number of agitators of provoking the recent riots.

Spanish authorities suspect a secretive new group called Tsunami Democratic is using encrypted messages to orchestrate some of the attacks, which have

included torched cars and burning barricades in the streets.

The group appeared on Sept. 2 and in just over six weeks has gained nearly 340,000 followers on its main channel in Telegram, a messaging app.

A National Court judge on Friday ordered the closure of websites linked to the group.

Rights group Amnesty International called on "all authorities" to refrain from contributing to the escalation of tensions in the streets and to respond "proportionally" to outbreaks of violence.

The group said in a state-

ment that it had observed "various cases" of "excessive" use of police force, "including inappropriate and unjustified use of batons and other defensive equipment against people who posed no risk."

Tourists also felt the turmoil. At least two large cruise operators diverted their ships to other ports, and those which had already docked in the port of Barcelona cancelled their passengers' excursions to the city. Architect Antoni Gaudí's modernist Sagrada Família also closed its doors due to a protest blocking access to the basilica.

Naoya Suzuki, a 34-year-old tourist from Japan, complained about the disruptions to "people who have nothing to do with Spain."

"I've had a look at the news and I can just about understand why they are angry, but not why are they are doing all this and stopping the sightseeing of tourists," he said.

Dozens of flights into and out of the region were canceled due to the strike called by pro-independence unions. Picketers also blocked roads to the border with France and elsewhere, sometimes with burning tires.

Commuter and long-distance train services were significantly reduced, and many shops and factories didn't open for business. □

France: Person arrested in Sept. 11-style attack threat



In this April 11, 2019 file photo, French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner gestures from a police car as he visits the Neuhof district of Strasbourg, eastern France.

Associated Press

By ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A young man flagged for Islamic radical-

ism is in French custody on preliminary terrorism charges after threatening a Sept. 11-style plane hijacking and attack, authorities said Friday.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said the man's arrest late last month marked the 60th time that French authorities have thwarted a potential attack since 2013.

"An individual who was inspired by the Sept. 11, 2001 attack and planes that destroyed the towers of the World Trade Center was detained by our services," Castaner said on France-2 television Thursday night.

Castaner said the person was "in the process of planning" an attack and seeking to procure weapons.

A French security official said that the planning was in the early stages, but the DGSI intelligence service decided to move in and arrest the man Sept. 26 because he had started a hunt for weapons.

The man is a French resident in his 20s and had been identified by the DGSI as expressing Islamic radical views, the official said. Investigators are looking into whether he might have had accomplices. It was not known whether he

had expressed allegiance to any extremist group, said the official, who was not authorized to be publicly named.

No other details were immediately made public.

A long-time police administrator stabbed four colleagues to death on Oct. 3 in an incident prosecutors consider a possible terrorist attack. The attacker was killed by police.

He had become radicalized, and France's counter-terrorism prosecutor said he had likely been in contact with members of an ultra-conservative Islamic movement. □

EU fails to launch membership talks with Balkans hopefuls

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders failed Friday to agree on launching membership negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia in an embarrassing climb-down that could risk inflaming the volatile Balkans region.

The two countries had expected to receive a green light to begin negotiations on joining the European club, a process which could take several years. The European Commission, which supervises entry talks, insists that both have met all the criteria for admittance. EU leaders had promised a final decision by the end of October.

For now, a decision is unlikely until May 2020 at the earliest.

French President Emmanuel Macron won't allow any new countries into the 28-nation bloc until its enlargement procedures have been improved, while the Netherlands opposes Albania's candidacy and disputes the commission's assessment.

"The overwhelming majority wanted to open accession talks with North Macedonia and Albania. However, such a decision requires unanimity and there was no unanimity yesterday," said EU Council President



European Union leaders attend a round table meeting at an EU summit in Brussels, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019.

Donald Tusk, who chaired the meeting. "Both countries, they passed their exams. I can't say this about our member states," he said. The non-decision, he added, was "a mistake." As Britain prepares to leave the EU, its 27 partners have been at pains to show their unity. However, decision-making on important issues can be held hostage by just a few member countries. Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said the failure to open the EU enlargement process "will be remembered as an historic error."

"I told my colleagues that this was an appointment with history. In 1400 those territories fell under the Ottoman Empire. After World War II they fell under the communist bloc. It is their aspiration to join Europe," Conte told reporters. "I hope that the despair doesn't lead to the deepest distress." And former Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras, whose decision to support North Macedonia's change of name in an effort to set aside years of tension between the two

Associated Press

countries lost him support, tweeted that the failure "is a message of weakness and defeat for the European project."

The constant expansion of the EU over the years has complicated decision-making in the world's biggest trade bloc, and "enlargement fatigue," as some have termed it, has set in. Turkey's membership talks, for example, are virtually frozen.

The EU has always said that membership is based on a candidate's merits.

Albanian Prime Minister Edi

Rama regretted the deadlock. He said it "is linked with an open confrontation within the EU itself," on its enlargement process and internal debate.

"The process of European integration will continue. Not because Paris, Berlin, Brussels or all of them are asking for it, but because it is needed to turn our country into a European, functional one," Rama said on a talk show late Thursday after returning from Brussels.

In a televised address, North Macedonia's president Stevo Pendarovski urged the nation not to be "disappointed."

"This is not a time for disappointment and apathy, but time for national unity. I'm convinced that if we are working together, we will succeed," Pendarovski said.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini warned in May that any failure to recognize the efforts of the two countries "undermines stability and seriously discourages further reforms."

Her warning came just after Serbia put its troops on full alert when heavily armed Kosovo police fired tear gas and arrested about two dozen people in Serb-dominated northern Kosovo in what they called an anti-organized crime operation. □

Yes or No? Vital vote on Brexit plan set for Saturday in UK

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Parliament is set to vote Saturday on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new deal with the European Union, a decisive moment in the prolonged bid to end the Brexit stalemate. Various scenarios may be put in motion by the vote.

IF THE DEAL IS APPROVED IN PARLIAMENT

A "yes" vote would mark the first time Parliament has agreed to terms of a divorce deal and would be a substantial political victory for Johnson, who helped lead the pro-Brexit forces during the 2016 referendum.



Undated handout photo issued on Friday Oct. 18, 2019 by the group Led By Donkeys of an anti-Brexit protest message which has been ploughed in 40 metre high letters in a field at Manor Farm, Water Eaton, Wiltshire, England.

Associated Press

It would have to be followed by an intense push in Parliament to pass the necessary implementation law in time for Britain to formally leave the EU on the Oct. 31

deadline. If this proves impossible, a "technical" extension would be expected to give Britain time to enact the legislation.

The European Parliament

also has to approve the deal, but it unlikely to be voted down there.

If Britain does leave under the terms of a deal, there would be an extended "transition period" that would last at least until the end of 2020, so no immediate change in policies would be seen.

IF THE DEAL IS DEFEATED

A "no" vote would mean Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on Oct. 31 but still has no plan in place — the so-called "no-deal" scenario that government papers suggest would trigger economic contraction, long delays at ports and possible shortages of food and medicine.

Parliament has passed a law to avoid this situation by requiring Johnson to write a letter to the EU by Saturday night formally requesting an extension to the deadline. Johnson has said he will not do so, but government lawyers have told a court he plans to comply with the law. His precise course cannot be easily predicted.

If Johnson chooses to defy the law requiring him to seek an extension, he will face an immediate court challenge in Scotland — in a case already underway — and perhaps in other jurisdictions that would likely end up quickly in Britain's Supreme Court. □

Officials: Blast at Afghan mosque kills 62 during prayers

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— An explosion rocked a mosque in eastern Afghanistan as dozens of people gathered for Friday prayers, causing the roof to collapse and killing 62 worshippers, provincial officials said. The attack underscored the record-high number of civilians dying in the country's 18-year war. Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar Province, said the militant attack wounded 36 others. He said it was not immediately clear if the mosque was attacked by a suicide bomber or by some other type of bombing.

Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, strongly condemned the attack on his official Twitter account. "The Afghan government strongly condemns today's suicide attack in a mosque in Nangarhar province," he tweeted.

"The Taliban and their partners heinous crimes continue to target civilians in time of worship," he added.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in



A wounded man is brought by stretcher into a hospital after a mortar was fired by insurgents in Haskamena district of Jalalabad east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Oct. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

eastern Afghanistan, especially Nangarhar province. However, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's spokesman in a statement condemned the attack in Nangarhar and called it a serious crime.

Zahir Adil, spokesman for the public health department in Nangarhar Province, said 23 of the wounded were transferred to Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and the rest were being treated in the Haskamena district clinic.

The spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Guterres "strongly" condemned the attack and said those responsible must be held accountable.

Amnesty International's deputy South Asia director, Omar Waraich, said the attack "demands the world's attention."

"Flagrant violations of international humanitarian law such as deliberate targeting of civilians are not something anyone should

get used to or learn to ignore," he said.

The violence comes a day after a United Nations report said that Afghan civilians are dying in record numbers in the country's increasingly brutal war, noting that more civilians died in July than in any previous one-month period since the U.N. began keeping statistics.

"Civilian casualties at record-high levels clearly show the need for all parties concerned to pay much

more attention to protecting the civilian population, including through a review of conduct during combat operations," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan. The report said that pro-government forces caused 2,348 civilian casualties, including 1,149 killed and 1,199 wounded, a 26% increase from the same period in 2018.

The report said 2,563 civilians were killed and 5,676 were wounded in the first nine months of this year. Insurgents were responsible for 62%. July to September were the deadliest months so far this year.

Efforts to restart talks to end Afghanistan's 18-year war picked up earlier this month, just weeks after President Donald Trump last month declared the talks "dead," blaming a surge in violence by the Taliban that included the killing of a U.S. soldier.

U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad visited Pakistan and met with the Taliban's top negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. Baradar is a co-founder of the hard-line Islamic movement and was head of a Taliban delegation to the Pakistani capital. □

Fighting in Kurdish-held Syrian town despite cease-fire

By MEHMET GUZEL

Associated Press

CEYLANPINAR, Turkey (AP)

— Associated Press journalists witnessed continued fighting Friday morning in a northeast Syrian town at the center of the fight between Turkey and Kurdish forces, despite a U.S.-brokered cease-fire that went into effect hours earlier. Shelling and billowing smoke could be seen around Ras al-Ayn accompanied by the sound of gunfire. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, reported intermittent clashes in the Ras al-Ayn but relative calm elsewhere since Thursday night. That's when Turkey and the U.S. agreed to a five-day cease-fire to halt

the Turkish offensive against Kurdish-led forces in the region. AP journalists also reported quiet in the town of Tal Abyad.

The agreement — reached after hours of negotiations in Turkey's capital of Ankara between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence — requires the Kurdish fighters to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish border. That largely solidifies the position Turkey has reached in its offensive, now in its tenth day. The fighting Friday came even after the commander of Kurdish-led forces in Syria, Mazloum Abdi, told Kurdish TV late on Thursday: "We will do whatever we can for the



In this photo taken from the Turkish side of the border between Turkey and Syria, in Ceylanpinar, Sanliurfa province, southeastern Turkey, flames and smoke billow from a fire on a target in Ras al-Ayn, Syria, caused by shelling by Turkish forces, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

success of the cease-fire agreement." But one Kurdish official, Razan Hiddo, declared that the Kurdish

people would refuse to live under Turkish occupation. Kurdish fighters have already been driven out of

much — but not all — of a swath of territory that stretches about 100 kilometers (60 miles) along the middle of the Syrian-Turkish border, between Ras al-Ayn and Tal Abyad.

But Kurdish forces are still entrenched in Ras al-Ayn, where they were fiercely battling Turkish-backed Syrian fighters trying to take the town Thursday. Whether the Kurdish fighters pull out of Ras al-Ayn will likely be an early test of the accord.

Turkish troops and their allied Syrian fighters launched the offensive two days after U.S. President Donald Trump suddenly announced he was withdrawing American troops from the border area. □

In protest clouds, Hong Kong tourists see silver lining



In this Oct. 10, 2019 photo, people ride in a ferry from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon as the sun sets in Hong Kong.

By JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — No tiresome wait for hugs and kisses from Mickey and Minnie Mouse. No queue at all for Hyperspace Mountain, where thrill-seekers are so scarce that Star Wars' Admiral Ackbar speaks to himself in the dark.

Tinker Bell gazes out over rows of empty seats on the train to Hong Kong Disneyland that was far busier before tourists were scared off by anti-government protests shaking this international hub for business and fun.

That's tough for local business but great for Disney fans like Yunice Tsui and her 7 and 4-year-old daughters, adorable in Minnie headbands. With an annual pass to the park she's already toured nine times, Tsui is better placed than most to size up the body-blow to Hong Kong visitor numbers from the often violent demonstrations, now in their fifth month.

"Before June, you'd generally queue for more than 30 minutes for each ride. For the last few times since July, we've been here about two-to-three times, every time it's about a five-to-six minute wait to queue up for a ride. There are certainly less people, I would say 60% less. Kids are very happy because after a ride, they can go queue up for another one and play again."

The impact of the pro-

tests on tourism is verging on catastrophic for Hong Kong, one of the world's great destinations and geared up to receive 65 million visitors a year.

On Victoria Peak, restaurants with knock-out nighttime views of the city's neon-lit skyscrapers stand empty. The snaking lines of tourists for the clickety-clackety 19th-century tram to the top are now just a memory.

The Dragon Boat Carnival in June, when protests started: canceled. A Wine & Dine Festival scheduled for the end of this month: scrapped, too. Hong Kong received 2.3 million fewer visitors in August compared with a year earlier, largely trips that people from elsewhere in China are no longer making to the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. September visitor numbers, due Oct. 31, are unlikely to be any better, given recent protest-related violence and chaos.

"It's deserted," said Dyutimoy Chakraborty, who runs the Gordon Ramsay Bread Street Kitchen & Bar opposite the Peak Tram. The tram now closes at 10 p.m. instead of midnight, because of "potential demonstrations and protests in the nearby area."

"Normally, there would be a huge queue," Chakraborty said on a recent weeknight. "Since the protests started, it has been like this."

The eatery has lost nearly half of its weekday busi-

ness, he added. "You think of what you could have made and what you are making at the moment," he said. "That difference, yes, it hurts."

Protester leaflets advise, "You've arrived in a broken, torn-apart city," and the protests have at times caused monumental disruptions of traffic and public transport.

But even when the protests have involved hundreds of thousands of people, they've generally been confined to only a few areas in this semi-tropical former British colony of 7 million.

And the tourists who come anyway are finding bargain-basement hotel rates, two-for-one deals, easy late checkouts and other sweeteners.

Visiting this month from Taiwan, where he works as a teacher, South African traveler Winand Koch paid the equivalent of just US\$65 per night for a room in a comfy hotel that was charging nearly quadruple that rate when he first checked a few months back. Of all his trips to Hong Kong, the two-day stay with his sister, Betro, was "one of the best," he said.

"I've never seen Hong Kong this quiet before," he said. "We didn't have to queue anywhere. We could get in everywhere."

Trundling along with suitcases through crowds of demonstrators, hoping to catch a train to the airport

a day after protest violence shut down the entire rail network, Koch said he'd enjoyed being "part of history."

"By accident ran into the protest today," he said. "But it was fun, actually, the people were all friendly, helping us through ... they even gave us masks."

Aside from the risk of stumbling unawares into street battles and clouds of police tear gas — as some tourists have to their coughing, spluttering dismay — Hong Kong remains a pleasant city. Visitors of either sex needn't think twice about venturing out late at night or while wearing valuables.

For the moment, the U.S. State Department still only recommends that visitors exercise extra caution. A similarly worded travel ad-

visory from the British government says, "most visits are trouble free."

Edgar Ruiz said he flew from Mexico "just to see the protests."

"I wanted to experience it firsthand. This is big!" he said. "I want to be telling people that I was here when this happened, because it is going to be major in history."

Even some Hong Kong residents are enjoying a respite from the usual floods of visitors, mainly from mainland China. The number of total arrivals has almost doubled over the past decade, from 36 million in 2010 to 65 million last year.

Up on the Peak, Hong Kong-born Isaac Mercado, a 26-year-old banking analyst, was luxuriating in the unusual emptiness. □

Associated Press



A demonstrator wears a hat reading "Make Hong Kong great again" during a rally in the Central District in Hong Kong, Friday, Oct. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

China legislature blasts US Congress over Hong Kong

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's ceremonial legislature is attacking legislation in the U.S. Congress to support pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

A spokesman for the National People's Congress says the legislation "violates the basic norms of international law and international relations" and "grossly interferes in China's domestic politics."

The spokesman, Zang Tiewei, is the latest Chinese official to criticize the legislation passed this week by the U.S. House of Representatives.

One of the bills would require annual reviews by the U.S. secretary of state of Hong Kong's special economic and trade status, providing a check on Beijing's influence over the territory.

China's foreign ministry has threatened to take unspecified countermeasures if the measures are passed in the Senate.

Zang said Friday that a potential Chinese legislative response depended on the bills' progress. □

Failed raid against El Chapo's son leaves 8 dead in Mexico

By ANDRÉS VILLARREAL

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

CULIACAN, Mexico (AP)

— Mexican security forces aborted an attempt to capture a son of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman after finding themselves outgunned in a ferocious shootout with cartel henchmen that left at least eight people dead and more than 20 wounded, authorities said Friday. The gunbattle Thursday paralyzed the capital of Mexico's Sinaloa state, Culiacan, and left the streets littered with burning vehicles. Residents took cover indoors as automatic gunfire raged outside.

It was the third bloody and terrifying shootout in less than a week between security forces and cartel henchmen, raising questions about whether President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's policy of avoiding the use of force and focusing on social ills is work-

ing. López Obrador said he remains committed to tackling violence through peaceful means and dismissed such questions as "the point of view of our adversaries and the opposition media."

But Mike Vigil, a former chief of international operations for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who worked undercover in Mexico, called the violence "a massive black eye to the Mexican government" and a "sign that the cartels are more powerful" than it is.

Streets in Culiacan, a city of over 800,000, remained blocked with torched cars Friday morning, schools were closed, and some public offices asked their employees to stay home. Few buses were running. Teresa Mercado, who had just returned to her native Culiacan on Thursday, said: "This is worse than what I had lived through years ago."



A truck's windows shows hits from bullets after a gunfight in Culiacan, Mexico, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

Authorities said 35 troops arrived at a home Thursday afternoon with a warrant to arrest Ovidio Guzmán López on a 2018 extradition request from the U.S. They entered the home, where Guzman and three others were inside.

Heavily armed men in greater force surrounded the house and also unleashed mayhem elsewhere, taking over toll booths and main roads into the city.

Men carrying high-caliber weapons blocked major intersections.

Amid the chaos, inmates at a prison rioted, seized weapons from guards and fled. Fifty-six prisoners escaped, and 49 were still at large Friday, according to Sinaloa Public Security Secretary Cristóbal Castañeda. Two guards were taken captive and later freed.

Videos on social media showed a scene resembling a war zone, with gunmen, some in black ski masks, riding in the back of trucks and firing mounted machine guns as smoke rose above the cityscape. People ran for cover as gunfire rattled around them, and motorists drove frantically in reverse, trying to escape the bullets.

Five attackers, a member of the National Guard, a civilian and a prisoner died in the gunbattles, Defense

Secretary Gen. Luis Cresencio Sandoval said. He said seven members of the security forces were wounded and eight held captive before being released unharmed.

The government's security cabinet made the decision to withdraw the troops to avoid greater loss of life.

"The capture of one criminal cannot be worth more than the lives of people. They made the decision and I supported it," López Obrador said. He added: "We do not want deaths. We do not want war."

Security cabinet officials said they were not informed about the operation beforehand. They said troops surrounded the house without a search warrant and came under fire before one could be delivered, at that point deciding to enter without the warrant. And they said the troops underestimated the cartel's response.

Sandoval said that if the security cabinet had known about the operation, it would have gone about it differently and deployed more troops and even sent air support.

"It was rushed. The consequences were not considered," he said.

It was not clear what happened to Guzmán after the troops left. Federal Security Secretary Alfonso Durazo

said he was never under formal detention. José Luis González Meza, a lawyer for the Guzman family, said he was told Ovidio is "alive and free."

José Reveles, the author of several books on the Sinaloa cartel, said the operation was done clumsily from both an operational and a political standpoint.

"If the government says it did not know anything, that's absolutely unheard of, and especially for an operation of this magnitude," Reveles said. "If you're going to do an operation of this size, you should do it right — guard all flanks, add security in the prison."

At the same time, he allowed that "doing a surgical operation there is impossible; the strength of the Sinaloa cartel was made clear."

Vigil, the former DEA agent, worried that the retreat could lead to more bloodshed.

"This is going to set an example for the other groups," Vigil said. "It sends them the message that if they capture a member of the cartel, all they have to do is go in the city and intimidate the citizenry and security forces."

The elder Guzman is serving a life sentence in the U.S. after being convicted last February of industrial-scale drug trafficking. □

Protesters bar Haiti's president from visiting historic site

By EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haiti's embattled president was forced on Thursday to hold a private ceremony amid heavy security for what is usually a public celebration of one of the country's founding fathers. Jovenel Moïse and other officials appeared at the National Pantheon Museum in downtown Port-au-Prince as hundreds of armed police officers closed down the surrounding area while protesters who demanded his resignation began to gather nearby.

"This is not how a government should be functioning," said Mario Terrain, who is 29 and unemployed. "The president is in hiding." Moïse did not speak to reporters and left after the brief ceremony to commemorate the death of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, whose rule ended in 1806

following a military revolt. Protesters had prevented Moïse from visiting Pont-Rouge, the site north of the capital where Dessalines was killed and where the ceremony is usually held. Anger over corruption, inflation and scarcity of basic goods including fuel has led to large protests that began five weeks ago and have shuttered many businesses and schools.

A couple hundred protesters had already gathered at Pont-Rouge as they criticized Moïse.

"We dare the president to come," said 28-year-old Joel Theodore. "It will be his last day in office."

The president held a surprise press conference on Tuesday and said he would not resign as he once again urged unity and dialogue. Opposition leaders, however, said protesters would remain on the streets until he steps down. □

LOCAL



The Power of You



NOORD — Liesbeth Jusia from Amsterdam, international medium and legal counsel from the Netherlands, is hosting an evening of mediumship, a workshop personal/intuitive development and private consultations. After a successful first edition in Aruba she is back on the island to give a workshop about understanding the powerful aspects of awareness and intuition and how to use your power and intuition in daily life. "My life has always been about betterment of self and others, in my private as well as my professional life. I do wish to emphasize that I am a down to earth type of medium and working in a commercial business world as well."

Our intuition is one of our most important assets in life, but for some reason we undervalue this capacity within ourselves. We also but half express ourselves. Which is a shame: not only does it help us make decisions that can shape our lives in a way that really fits our potential, it also enhances the connection with ourselves and the people close to us: family, friend and colleagues. Even better: broadening your range of perception will open up a world of inspiration, knowledge and support. You need to dig and delve deeper to really understand who you are and what you are capable of. That way you gain a stronger sense of self and understanding of your potential. It will help you to become more confident and to learn to trust that part which is too often neglected. How many times haven't you thought: "I knew it!" but you didn't act on it? That was a moment of simply knowing, but for some reason - most of the times lack of confidence and distraction by others or situations - you ignored what YOU felt. Once you start to value and trust yourself, you will understand the power that is within you and how to use it. You will live life differently: it promotes well-being and enables you to manifest things in your private and/or professional life (on an

emotional, spiritual, physical and material level) for you and others, because you'll live more consciously and according to your nature. In the end you can't deny who you are. The more you focus on you, the less the outer world will affect you.

Who is Liesbeth

Apart from being a spiritual adviser and accredited medium, Liesbeth has over 30 years working experience in (international) commercial organizations, of which she worked as a legal counsel for over a decade. She holds a master of laws degree, with minors in (extended) criminology and forensic psychiatry. Human behavior always fascinated her. As a tutor and spiritual adviser she focuses on awareness and personal development. A stronger awareness promotes a stronger sense of self, resilience, self-reliance, overall well-being as well as a stronger, deeper connection with self and others. In 2008 she published a book about the suicide of her partner, afterwards she volunteered for the Dutch suicide prevention helpline for two years, for which she completed the masterclass suicide prevention at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. In October 2014 Liesbeth was one of two guest lecturers at the Amsterdam Business School speaking on "intuition and passion in entrepreneurship". For the past five years she has been a volunteer coach, coaching small groups of high school students in Amsterdam. Liesbeth has been very intuitive her whole life and the - sometimes incredible and amazing - experiences made her explore and study these phenomena extensively at the Arthur Findlay College in Stansted, the world's foremost college for the advancement of psychic sciences and spiritualism. In April 2014 she attained the accreditation of the Spiritualists' National Union (UK) for demonstrating mediumship. She is a no nonsense, matter of fact person, which shows in

her work as a tutor and medium. Whatever she does, she does it in a down to earth way, with love, compassion, joy and humor.

Liesbeth will run the workshop "The Power of You" on Saturday October 26th from and an evening of mediumship on Tuesday October 29th (both events at MFA Noord). More info: www.liesbethjusia.nl. □



Aruban Shamira Raphaëla wins Golden Calf award



ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS — The prestigious Golden Calf (in Dutch Gouden Kalf) award is the award of the Netherlands Film Festival, which is held annually in Utrecht. For her documentary 'Daddy and the Warlord' the Aruban Shamira Raphaëla won the prize which makes her the fourth 'islands child' ever winning the wanted award.

Norman de Palm from Aruba won the award (Special Jury Prize) in 1990, Felix de Rooy from Curacao (Special Jury Prize) and Jandino

Asporaat (Public Prize) from Curacao also won awards this year. For Raphaëla the 5 kilo weighing award is dedicated to her late father.

About the documentary

The family of Clarice Gargard, born in 1988, comes from Liberia. In 'Daddy and the Warlord', the young journalist asks about her father's involvement in the war crimes of the convicted rebel and ex-president of Liberia, Charles Taylor. For Gargard her father was an idealist and role model. But was

he really interested in rebuilding his country, or was he corrupting himself with money, fame, and power? The story unfolds slowly - and Clarice increasingly loses herself in the search for her own truth, while her father's story turns out to be more complex and harder than ever thought.

With this documentary Raphaëla gives a voice to war victims. She has made more films, among others about her late father who had a drug addict history. In 'Deal with it' she unfolds the chaotic and colorful world of her father Pempy,



a drug dealing addict, and her brother Andy, who's following in his father's footsteps. They both counter their seemingly desperate lives with lots of resilience and humor. Simultaneously, it's impossible for Raphaëla to remain unaffected by the vicious circle trapping her father and brother.□

Visitors honored on our beautiful island



PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the couple **Charles and Megan Music** from USA, together with couple **Osvaldo Rosito and Lidia Celina Paggi de Rosito** from Argentina. It is very great to see that Aruba's loyal visitors come from all over the world.

This wonderful group stated that they love the island very much, especially for its safety, its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Aruba Phoenix presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.□

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CASINO AND SHOPS

**1st edition of Shoco Artfest 2019:
Unique art-honoring event**



ORANJESTAD — Tonight marks the start of the 1st edition of Shoco Artfest. A two day event that will highlight the artistic way of our locals. If you are looking to get a glimpse of Aruba's creative community you don't want to miss out on this unique art-honoring event.

Paul Wong is a local artist and is the organizer of this festival. He is a great admirer of art. The name of the festival is based on his very own painting of an owl "Shoco" with the Aruban flag and therefore he chose the name Shoco Artfest. Wong knows that there are a lot of local people that have their artistic way and with this festival he wants to give exposure to new and upcoming local artists. The festival is a mixture of urban, fine and cultural art pieces. Ten dif-

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ferent local artists will be displaying their creativity in different types of art. There will be wood and rock sculptures, airbrush and paintbrush art, art on wheels, bikes & trucks, tattoo demonstrations, murals and local art vendors. The artists taking part of this festival are: Sjoerd Cannings, George Rosel, Evris Fearon, Dario Wilson, Jesus Fontalba, Emil Krosendijk, Nimia Geerman, Juancho Hoek, Merveline Geerman and Paul Wong.

There will be a special section which will be displaying art on skateboard decks.

Each artist will be creating their art on these decks which will be auctioned off to the public. All the proceeds of this silent auction will go to children's home Casa Cuna Foundation. Just imaging such beautiful art hanging at your home while you support a good cause at the same time. The event will take place Saturday October 19th and Sunday October 20th at Camacuri Motorworld which is located between the airport and Oranjestad, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on both days. Food and drinks are also available. Entrance is completely

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R-Glass | Curated Lab | Hungry Piranha
The Lazy Lizard | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa
The Collectables

East, west, Aruba is the best

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt had the great pleasure to honor a loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

The honorees were: **Robert & Karen Beyerlein** residents of Lupton Michigan

Gustavo Lopez & Griselda Rodriguez residents of Bariloche Rio Negro, Argentina

Daniel & Graciela Valenzuela de Rodriguez, residents of Paraguay

All these loyal and friendly visitors consider Aruba to be their best vacation escape because of the warm inviting sun, its kind people

and the great section of restaurants.

Boekhoudt together with representatives of Costa Linda Beach Resort

thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their

home away from home for so many years. □



SPORTS



Nashville Predators goaltender Juuse Saros makes a save on Arizona Coyotes center Carl Soderberg (34) during the second period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

Kessel scores twice, leads Coyotes past Predators 5-2

By JOSE M. ROMERO
Associated Press

GLendale, Ariz. (AP)—The way Phil Kessel had been playing for the Arizona Coyotes at the start of the season, scoring a goal was just a matter of time.

The veteran forward put it all together Thursday night, scoring his first two goals for Arizona, and Christian Dvorak scored his third goal in two games as the Coyotes beat the Nashville Predators 5-2.

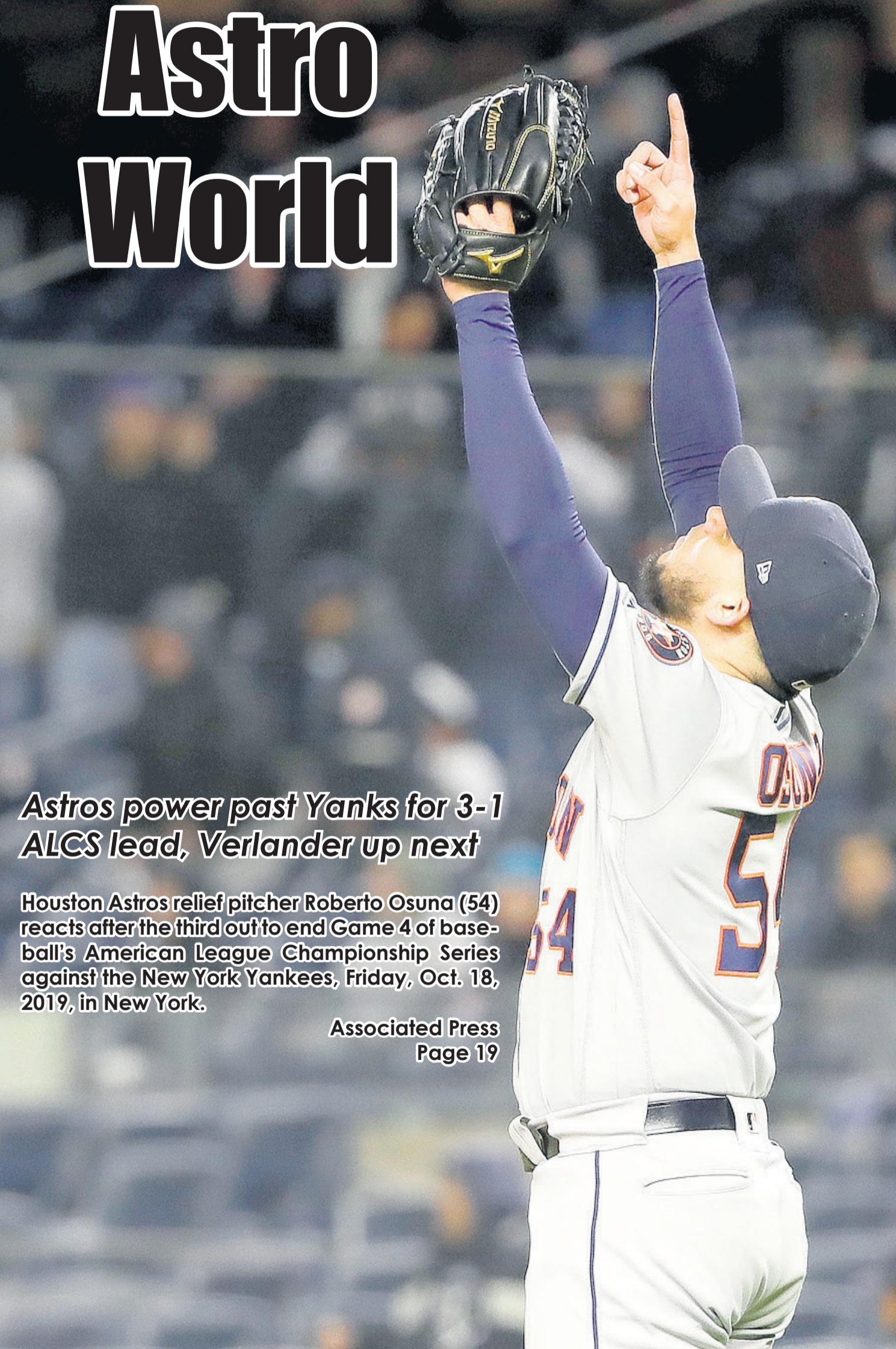
"It feels nice to get one, and hopefully they start coming," said Kessel, whose had 11 consecutive seasons of 20 or more goals.

"I've had a bunch of chances, our line's had a bunch of chances and eventually they go in."

Arizona (3-2-1), 3-0-1 in its last four games, went 3 for 6 on the power play. Darcy Kuemper stopped 23 shots and set a franchise record by allowing two goals or less in 12 consecutive games. Jakob Chychrun added his first goal of the season, and Carl Soderberg also scored.

Dante Fabbro and Nick Bonino scored for the Predators, who have lost two of three.

Continued on Page 18



Astros power past Yanks for 3-1 ALCS lead, Verlander up next

Houston Astros relief pitcher Roberto Osuna (54) reacts after the third out to end Game 4 of baseball's American League Championship Series against the New York Yankees, Friday, Oct. 18, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press
Page 19

Kessel scores twice, leads Coyotes past Predators 5-2

Continued from Page 17

The Predators were without leading goal scorer Filip Forsberg, who came in with five on the season. Forsberg took a shoulder blow to his head in the Predators' 5-2 win at Vegas on Tuesday and was a game-time decision with a lower body injury. Arizona lost defenseman Jordan Oesterle 17 seconds into the game when a shot was deflected off the back of his head. Oesterle was taken to a hospital for a precautionary examination after feeling dizzy, and needed stitches.

The Coyotes didn't seem affected. Dvorak sent a shot from a difficult side angle high into the net past Juuse Saros at 6:06.

Kessel, a two-time Stanley Cup winner acquired in a trade with the Pittsburgh Penguins in the offseason, finished off a power play give-and-go with Clayton Keller, scoring at 10:34 of the first.

Kessel scored again on a power play for a three-goal lead, with Keller assisting at 5:03 of the third. Nick Schmaltz and Derek Stepan also had two assists.



Arizona Coyotes defenseman Jordan Oesterle (82) lies on the ice after getting hit with the puck as Derek Stepan (21), Phil Kessel (81) and Nashville Predators left wing Austin Watson (51) try to help him in the first period during an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

"He wasn't even panicking. He was getting his looks," Coyotes coach Rick Tocchet said of Kessel. "We've got to get him the puck in those areas, that's where he's a home run hitter."

The Predators made it 2-1 at 3:13 of the second with Fabbro's goal. Ryan Ellis assisted on both Predators goals, giving him a team-high eight assists.

Saros blocked a breakaway attempt from the Coyotes' Derek Stepan at 9:13 of the second. Saros finished with 27 saves.

Chychrun, on another power play, scored on a left-handed wrist shot at 14:27. Schmaltz delivered him a no-look pass that led to the goal.

The Predators managed only three shots in the first

period. They are 1-1-6 in their last eight games in Arizona. "It's more of a team number than a 'me' number," Kuemper said of his record. "I didn't have to do a whole lot. I thought this was maybe our best game yet." Bonino scored late in the third, then Soderberg put the game out of reach with an empty-net goal at the 17:10 mark. The Preda-

tors felt the Coyotes' speed was a factor. "We were out-worked, out-competeted and out-skated. That's really it," Predators coach Peter Laviolette said. "We didn't put anything into it, we didn't get anything out of it."

NOTES: The Coyotes celebrated Noche De Los Yotes, a tribute to Hispanic heritage, on Thursday night. Earlier in the day, the team announced the formation of the franchise's first ever Latino advisory board, which is headed by majority owner Alex Meruelo. Meruelo has said he intends to build more fan interest in the Coyotes within the Phoenix area's large Hispanic population. ... The Coyotes played 59 minutes, 43 seconds of the game with five defensemen after Oesterle's injury. They were already without their top defenseman, Niklas Hjalmarsson, who is on injured reserve with a cracked fibula and could miss several months. ... F Michael Grabner played in his 600th career NHL game. ... Nashville's streak of five straight games with a power-play goal came to an end.□

Justin Thomas takes 2-stroke after 2 rounds at PGA's CJ Cup

Associated Press

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea (AP) —

Justin Thomas shot a 9-under 63 Friday to take a two-stroke lead at the CJ Cup at Nine Bridges, putting himself in position to win his second PGA Tour event in South Korea in three years.

Thomas, who won the inaugural CJ Cup in 2017, had a two-round total of 13-under 131.

South Korean-born New Zealander Danny Lee (66) was in a tie for second place with first-round leader and former U.S. Amateur champion Byeong Hun An, who shot 69 before his home fans.

Jordan Spieth (65) and Emiliano Grillo (66) were tied for fourth, four strokes behind.

Thomas birdied his first four holes and was 6-under after 10 holes.

"Overall one of the better rounds in a while," Thomas said. "It came pretty easy, for the most part. I never had to worry much out there."



Justin Thomas of the United States watches his shot on the 6th hole during the first round of the CJ Cup PGA golf tournament at Nine Bridges on Jeju Island, South Korea, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

Lee said he had a "positive round."

"It got windy at the end, the last

five holes, but my ball-striking has been really nice, and I and made some putts," Lee said. "Unfortu-

nately I bogeyed the last hole."

After a 66 on Thursday, Jason Day bogeyed four of his last six holes Friday for a 73 and was eight strokes behind.

Last year's runner-up Gary Woodland had a second straight 71 and was 11 behind at 2-under with Phil Mickelson, who shot 72. Defending champion Brooks Koepka had four bogeys on his first nine for a 75 and was 13 strokes behind.

Mickelson had the shot of the day, hitting a 353-yard tee shot which hit the flag on the par-4 14th, stopping 8 inches from the cup. That set up a tap-in eagle.

There are 78 players in the no-cut, limited-field event.

It's the first of three PGA Tour events in Asia, continuing next week at the Zozo Championship in Japan which includes Tiger Woods, and ending with the World Golf Championship event in Shanghai.□

Houston Astros vs. New York Yankees

By JAKE SEINER

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — They have the pitching, and they don't need the pitches. Certainly, the Houston Astros have confidence for good reason on the brink of another World Series.

"It's Justin Verlander," reliever Ryan Pressly said.

George Springer and Carlos Correa each hit three-run homers and the Astros got another wild ace off the hook to beat the disheveled New York Yankees 8-3 Thursday night and reach the cusp of a second World Series visit in three years.

The Astros lead the AL Championship Series 3-1, putting the 2017 World Series winners a step away from a showdown with the NL champion Washington Nationals.

Houston still has Verlander and Gerrit Cole queued up for this series, and the Yankees will have to beat both to survive. Verlander will start Game 5 on Friday night against James Paxton.

Springer lined an errant splitter from playoff star Masahiro Tanaka in the third inning for his homer, and Correa battered Chad Green's fastball when New York turned to its vaunted bullpen. Those All-Star sluggers have combined for just five hits in the series, but four have been homers.

Earlier in the day, Astros manager AJ Hinch ardently denied that his team has skirted rules to steal signs after an allegation by the Yankees, which was investigated and cleared by Major League Baseball. He also made it clear: If a pitcher is tipping what's coming, Houston will take advantage.

The Astros are tired of that talk detracting from their sluggers.

"I think it's disrespectful that every time we score a lot of runs, people talk about tipping," Correa said. "Nobody was tipping today and we scored, what, eight runs? We're great hitters. We've been doing it for a whole season."

New York worked starter Zack Greinke hard during a



Houston Astros center fielder George Springer (4) and shortstop Carlos Correa (1) celebrate after the Astros beat the New York Yankees 8-3 in Game 4 of baseball's American League Championship Series, Friday, Oct. 18, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

28-pitch first inning, but just like against Cole in Game 3, the clutch hit never came. Pressly dodged a bases-loaded jam in the fifth, and many fans had left Yankee Stadium by the time it ended shortly before 12:30 a.m. The Yankees are at risk of failing to make the World Series for an entire decade for the first time since the 1910s. They are 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position the past two games. Didn't help when they committed four errors in Game 4, most ever for the club in a home postseason game.

"We played poorly tonight, there's no other way to explain it," manager Aaron Boone said. "And we need to flush this immediately." Tanaka allowed four runs — three earned — for New York, his most in eight postseason starts.

CC Sabathia pitched in relief for New York but was pulled with a left shoulder injury during the eighth inning. Planning to retire after the season, an emotional Sabathia covered his face with his glove as he left the field for likely the final time. Fans shouted his name as he walked off, and Cole and Springer were among

the Houston players who stood and clapped for the 39-year-old.

"I hate to see that for him," said Hinch, who played with and against Sabathia. "I hate to see that for the sport."

Gary Sánchez ended a lengthy postseason slide with a two-run homer, but a reshuffled Yankees lineup — still without injured Giancarlo Stanton — again couldn't string together its damage.

During warmups, a buzzing Bronx crowd jeered Greinke with chants of "Donald! Donald!" — his given first name — and the veteran right-hander wobbled early. He walked three in the first inning for the first time since April 2007, including a four-pitch, bases-loaded free pass to Brett Gardner, and fell into a quick 1-0 hole.

Greinke struggled especially to locate his fastball before blowing one past Sánchez during a three-pitch K to end the inning. He sharpened up and retired nine straight before the Yankees pushed him out of the game while loading the bases in the fifth.

Pressly struck out Gleyber

Torres — on a tight check swing — and Edwin Encarnación to escape.

"So far this series our bullpen has been huge to complement a really good starting rotation," Hinch said.

Greinke was charged with just one run, working around four walks against the patient-but-punchless Yankees.

"Just missing by a little bit early," Greinke said. Springer is batting .132 in these playoffs, slumping just like he did in 2017 before breaking out to win World Series MVP. This homer was his 13th in the postseason, snapping a tie with teammate Jose Altuve for the club record.

Correa made it 6-1 in the sixth. At 25 years, 25 days, he is the youngest player with 10 postseason home runs, surpassing Albert Pujols. "I grew up a huge fan of Albert Pujols," Correa said. "I even wear No. 5 all the way growing up."

Correa ended Game 2 with a home run in the 11th inning and connected again in October after missing a lot of time this year with injuries.

Sánchez snapped a 2-for-23 skid to start this postsea-

son with his two-run homer in the sixth.

Otherwise, the AL East champion Yankees looked like they belonged in a lesser league. Sure-handed first baseman DJ LeMahieu booted two groundballs, Torres also made two errors at second, and reliever Adam Ottavino was pulled before getting an out for the fourth time in seven appearances this postseason. "Our guys are studs and I think they embrace the challenge," Boone said. "Obviously we've got our backs against the wall now."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: Stanton has missed the past three games after straining his right quad in Game 1. Boone said Stanton was available to pinch hit and could be New York's designated hitter Friday.

UP NEXT

Paxton said he watched tape from his Game 2 start and insists he wasn't tipping pitches. Houston grinded him out of the game after 2 1/3 innings. Verlander pitched two-run ball into the seventh, the only damage coming on Aaron Judge's two-run homer. □

NFL's biggest star joins growing list of sidelined QBs

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER (AP) — Awaiting the verdict on MVP Patrick Mahomes' gruesome knee injury, fans across the NFL may be longing for the days when the backup quarterback's job was to carry a clipboard and not the hopes and dreams of an entire franchise.

Mahomes is headed for an MRI on his right knee, which he dislocated Thursday night in Kansas City's 30-6 pummeling of the Denver Broncos that kicked off Week 7.

"He's a huge part of this team, huge part of the league. You just hate to see that," said journeyman Matt Moore, the latest No. 2 thrust into a leading role in this "Year of the Backup Quarterback."

Starting with Andrew Luck, who retired at age 29 after dealing with a series of injuries, the league's celebration of its 100th season has been marred by the loss of some of its biggest stars.

The club of QBs sidelined so far includes Drew Brees (thumb), Ben Roethlisberger (elbow), Cam Newton (foot), Nick Foles (collarbone), Josh Allen (concussion), Mitchell Trubisky (shoulder) and Sam Darnold (mononucleosis), whose backup, Trevor Siemian was lost for the season with a gruesome ankle injury.

Now, the league's brightest young star is hurt, too.

Shortly after becoming the fastest player in NFL history to throw for 7,500 yards, in just his 25th game, Ma-



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) lies on the field after being injured against the Denver Broncos during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, in Denver.

Associated Press

homes got hurt not on one of his improvisational masterpieces but on the most basic play, a quarterback sneak.

The stadium grew silent as one by one players peeled off the pile and Mahomes stayed down, his right leg stuck at an awkward angle before he rolled onto his back, ripped off his helmet and covered his face.

"I don't even want to think about that," receiver Tyreek Hill said. "We are just trying to move on from it, and I will continue to pray for my dog."

"It was out of whack," tight end Travis Kelce said. "I couldn't even describe it. You looked at it and were like, 'On no, there is something wrong with him.'" Denver defensive end Shelly Harris' heart sank.

"I've never seen anything like that on the field before," Harris said. "His knee was literally all the way to the side, his kneecap was. I wish him the best. We definitely need him in the league, he's definitely a big attraction in the league."

Mahomes refused to leave the field on a cart, so trainers helped him off the field once his kneecap was popped back into place. Then, he walked gingerly to the locker room.

"Obviously we need him to get wins," Hill said. "But now we just have to move on." The Chiefs' hopes of reaching their first Super Bowl since 1970 — the year Mahomes' father, former big leaguer Pat Mahomes, was born — will rest at least for a while not on their magnificent maestro but on Moore,

a 35-year-old career backup who wasn't even in the league last year as he sought to transition into either coaching or scouting. Moore attended Kyler Murray's pro day at Oklahoma this spring alongside Adam Engroff, the Miami Dolphins' director of college scouting. But Moore found himself in demand again when Chad Henne broke an ankle in the preseason and he signed Sept. 1 to back up Mahomes.

It was Kansas City's dominant defense that really stepped up when Mahomes went out Thursday night, but Moore did throw a 57-yard TD pass to Hill with Chris Harris Jr. in coverage. Overall, he was 10 of 19 for 117 yards.

"It is crazy. I am pretty sure about three or four of the

guys out there on the field had never caught a ball from Matt even in practice," Kelce said. "I know I hadn't." While backups Teddy Bridgewater in New Orleans and Kyle Allen in Carolina have each gone 4-0, most fill-ins aren't so fortunate. Mason Rudolph was knocked unconscious after replacing Roethlisberger, elevating undrafted Devlin "Duck" Hodges, who'd been cut at the end of training camp, to the starring role in Pittsburgh's last game. Siemian's season-ending injury opened the door for Luke Falk before Darnold returned last week. Only four starting QBs who own Super Bowl rings are still standing: the ageless Tom Brady, the rejuvenated Aaron Rodgers, the dependable Russell Wilson and the floundering Joe Flacco, who somehow escaped injury Thursday night despite being sacked a career-high eight times and knocked down on most of his other drop-backs.

Hill insists it's business as usual with Moore under center instead of Mahomes.

"I don't see anything changing," Hill said.

Except, well, everything. Earlier this week, Broncos coach Vic Fangio said facing Mahomes is the toughest task in the football because "you have to defend two plays: the one they've called and then the one he might create."

Now, those skills are shelved, like those of so many others who have mastered the league's paramount and most precarious position. □



A young fan waves a flag as he watches the celebration in Victory Lane after a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway, Monday, Oct 14, 2019, in Talladega, Ala.

Associated Press

NASCAR closes \$2B purchase of International Speedway Corp.

Associated Press
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— NASCAR closed its \$2 billion purchase of International Speedway Corp. on Friday, bringing under the sanctioning body's control 12 tracks that include Daytona, Talladega and Miami-Homestead Speedway.

The merger was announced in May and shareholders voted to ap-

prove it on Wednesday. The sale merges the two companies under one organizational structure with NASCAR chairman and CEO Jim France continuing in the same role. ISC chief executive Lesa France Kennedy will become the executive chair and NASCAR president Steve Phelps will oversee day-to-day operations of the merged companies.

"The merger of NASCAR and ISC represents a historic moment for our sport," France said. "There is much work ahead of us, but we're pleased with the progress made to position our sport for success."

Absent from the leadership is Brian France, who had served as chairman and CEO of NASCAR until he was arrested for drunken driving in August 2018. □

The Wonderwall: Minnesota United has steep backing behind it

By DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — When Minnesota United takes the field for the franchise's first match in the MLS playoffs, the Loons will have a stadium full of fired-up fans behind them.

If the home team wins, the scene at Allianz Field will briefly become a 19,400-person karaoke bar with the patrons passionately belting out one of the biggest hits by the 1990s British pop band Oasis.

"Wonderwall" is the song. It's also the aptly named section of seats for the most ardent followers of this fledgling soccer club. They hover ever so steeply behind the south goal at the open-air European-style venue that has brightened a worn-down neighborhood with LED lighting, translucent skin, and a curvy, 360-degree canopy. "There's a massive connection between the club and the fans. They expect it a long, long time in a city like this," goalie Vito Mannone said. "When you work so much, and you wait so many years to be that team that opens a new stadium, that's what happens.



In this July 13, 2019, photo, Minnesota United fans chant and hold cup scarves in anticipation of the start of the MLS team's soccer match against FC Dallas in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

It's a great atmosphere every game. We made it a fortress for teams to come here and get points."

Minnesota United, which plays the Los Angeles Galaxy in a first-round game on Sunday night, finished in fourth place in the Western Conference this season on the strength of a 10-1-6 record at its new home.

The Loons played their first two years as an MLS team a few miles to the west at TCF Bank Stadium, a college football facility more than double the size of Allianz Field.

The first season in the new place was a smash, with an average attendance of 19,723 that was over official capacity. That ranked 10th in the league, with Atlanta United (52,510) and the Seattle Sounders (40,247) again the front-runners for crowds in their NFL stadiums. According to figures compiled by Soccer Stadium Digest, league-wide attendance in 2019 took a slight dip from the previous year, though the downsized home of the Loons was one factor. They averaged 23,902 fans in 2018.

"You can see the relationship that's developing between the players and the crowd, which is always a great sign," Minnesota United coach Adrian Heath said. "They've been incredible. The supporters have been everything we expected for this stadium, and I think the players have been that as well. They've given performances here that they've been excited about."

Minnesota United owner Bill McGuire, a former health care executive

who bought the team in 2012 to save the financially strapped club from folding while it was in the lower-tier North American Soccer League, worked closely with the architectural firm Populous to design a robust supporters' section in an attempt to replicate the most vibrant stadiums around the MLS and the world. They listened to feedback from the fans, too.

What developed from those discussions was the Wonderwall, a 2,920-seat, pyramid-shaped area that allows for safe standing and rises at a sharp 35-degree incline to keep the highest rows as close to the field as possible. As with other venues around the game, the energy derived from the chanting, clapping, jumping, drum beating, flag waving and scarf raising originates there.

"The attitude and enthusiasm and involvement with the game that the supporters traditionally play now exists throughout the stadium," McGuire said. "Everybody is engaged. It is not just a group of the super fans sitting down at one end, conducting their own business."

Many of the fans that fill the Wonderwall have backed the team since it played for much smaller crowds in

Blaine, a suburb about 20 miles north of the current stadium where the Loons still maintain a practice facility.

"I think it helps that we've come from a lower division together," said Sam Solberg, the president of the Dark Clouds, one of the two major fan groups along with True North Elite. "There are a lot of established relationships there, which is huge in our ability to support the stadium and support the team and in the team's ability to form a strong fan base. I think the supporters' group can be the heart and soul of a stadium, and I think this year has demonstrated that."

Safe standing areas like the Wonderwall are becoming a popular fixture of MLS venues, with Los Angeles FC, Orlando and San Jose also among them. The 1989 Hillsborough disaster in England, when a crush of fans entering a stadium trampled 96 people to death and injured more than 700 others, prompted a ban on standing at soccer games for the top two tiers in England.

There has been a recent push for some English teams to restore standing, and Tottenham's new stadium has rails just in case it's allowed again. Because of a ban by the Union of European Football Associations, clubs in Germany have to replace standing areas with fixed seats for Champions League and Europa League matches. For instance, Borussia Dortmund's capacity drops from 81,365 to 65,829 when its famous yellow wall is eliminated.

In this crowded Twin Cities sports market, moving up to MLS required for the league, the team and the city some faith that Minnesota United's small-but-loyal fan base would reproduce with greater exposure.

"The whole place is loud and involved, and everybody stays to the end," McGuire said. "It's an extraordinary experience, and I think a lot of that is the spillover from this great supporters' group." □

Bencic nears WTA Finals spot as Bertens loses

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Belinda Bencic is on the verge of claiming the last spot at the season-ending WTA Finals after winning her Kremlin Cup quarterfinal on Friday.

Bencic saved two set points in the opening-set tiebreak in beating Kirsten Flipkens 7-6 (8), 6-1.

The Swiss player's hope of reaching the tour finals had earlier been given a boost when fellow contender Kiki Bertens was beaten 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 by Kristina Mladenovic. If Bencic beats Mladenovic in the semifinals on Saturday she will secure the eighth and final place ahead of Serena Williams at the Oct. 27-Nov. 3 tournament in Shenzhen, China.

Bertens now needs at least one player to withdraw to play in the tour finals.

In the other semifinal, Karolina Muchova bids to reach her third final of the year when she plays Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova after both won in straight sets.

In the men's draw, third-seeded Marin Cilic ousted Jeremy Chardy 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (2) to set up a semifinal meeting with Andrei Rublev, who swept past Nikola Milojevic 6-2, 6-3.

Seventh-seeded Adrian Mannarino, last year's runner-up, upset fourth-seeded Dusan Lajovic 7-6 (3), 6-1 and will face 2012 Kremlin Cup champion Andreas Seppi in the other semifinal. □

Penalty shootout looms as tiebreaker in World Cup knockouts

By STEVE McMORRAN

Associated Press

The history of football is full of dramatic penalty shootouts but rugby has never come to the point at which kicks at goal decide a World Cup knockout match. The possibility exists that it might happen this weekend when eight teams contest quarterfinals in Tokyo and Oita.

All Rugby World Cup matches to date have been decided within normal or extra-time. The question remains what happens if they are not, and who is best equipped to deal with an eventuality no team has ever trained for — something outside established rugby culture?

The rules are these: If scores in any knockout match are tied after 80 minutes, two 10-minute periods of extra time will be played in an effort to find a winner. If there is still a tie, a 10-minute period of sudden-death extra-time will occur. In that case, the first team to score is declared the winner.

If the deadlock persists, a place-kicking competition involving five players from each team will decide the winner.

Under the rules, a coin toss is made and the winner



Japan's Yu Tamura kicks a penalty goal during the Rugby World Cup Pool A game at City of Toyota Stadium between Japan and Samoa in Tokyo City, Japan, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019.

Associated Press

may decide which team kicks first, or from which end of the field the kicks are taken.

Place kicks at goal will then be taken in sequence from three different points on the field, all on the 22-meter line. The first point is directly in front of the posts, the second on the 15-meter line parallel with the left touchline and the third on the 15-meter line on the right side of the field.

"The referee will start the competition by calling the

first player selected from the team kicking first to the first kicking point," according to the rules. "Once the player has taken the place kick, the referee calls a player from the opposing team to take his place kick from the same point." It system goes on. The next two players — one from each team — will place kick from the second point in turn. This will continue until all five players from each team have place kicked. "If there are an equal num-

ber of successful kicks once each team has completed its five place kicks," the guidelines say, "the competition continues on a 'sudden-death' basis, following the same order of kickers used in the first five kicks."

The process continues until a winner is found.

A penalty shootout has occurred only once previously in professional rugby union, in a semifinal of the 2008-2009 Heineken Cup when the Cardiff Blues and

Leicester Tigers were forced to resort to penalties to decide a match which was tied after extra-time.

The resolution was widely criticized, with commentators saying it was unreasonable to expect that teams would contain a number of players with goalkicking ability. England's Daily Telegraph commented that it was "ludicrous that a game should be decided by emphasizing that particular skill."

According to statistics so far in the World Cup, New Zealand may be best placed in a penalty shootout with an 84 percent success rate from the tee in the tournament so far. Wales is next with 83 percent but has more recognized goalkickers.

Among individual players, Japan flyhalf Yu Tamura has kicked 10 penalties, more than any other player at the tournament so far. South Africa flyhalf Elton Jantjies has kicked 14 conversions.

Such a tie-breaking situation is not inconceivable; two previous World Cup finals have gone to extra time — in 1995 when South Africa beat New Zealand and in 2003 when England beat Australia. □

Sarfaraz removed as Pakistan T20 and test captain



Pakistani captain Sarfaraz Ahmed speaks to reporters ahead of Twenty20 matches against Sri Lanka in Lahore, Pakistan, Friday, Oct. 4, 2019.

By RIZWAN ALI

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Babar Azam has replaced Sarfaraz Ahmed as Pakistan's Twenty20 captain until next year's T20 World Cup in

Associated Press

Australia, and Azhar Ali has been appointed test captain for the 2019-20 season. The change in captaincy comes after Pakistan was beaten 3-0 by Sri Lanka last week in a Twenty20

series in Lahore. In the T20 series, Sarfaraz had scores of 24, 26 and 17 against a second-string Sri Lanka as Pakistan failed to chase in all three matches.

"His (Sarfaraz) loss in form and confidence is visible and in the best interest of the team it has been decided to leave him out and provide him the opportunity to reflect and regroup himself and try to reclaim his form away from international cricket," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani said in a statement on Friday.

Pakistan is due to leave for Australia next week to play three Twenty20s and two test matches and the PCB said the squads for both series will be announced on Monday.

Babar was the vice-captain during the T20 series against Sri Lanka and is presently leading Central Punjab in the National T20 Cup, where he scored a 59-ball 102 against Sindh.

Babar previously led Pakistan in the Under-19 World Cup in 2012. However, he has no experience leading the national team in big time international cricket. But the world's top-ranked Twenty20 batsman said he was ready for the challenge.

"To be named captain of the No. 1-ranked side in the world is the biggest thing that has happened to my career to date," Babar said. "I am ready for this challenge and also willing to learn more in the process. I feel it has been a natural

progression for me and I am delighted that the PCB has put faith in my capabilities." Pakistan, ranked No. 7 in test cricket, had an unimpressive record since Sarfaraz took over from now-head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq three years ago. Pakistan won only four test matches and lost eight during that period.

"These are exciting times in Pakistan cricket with a new team management," Azhar said. "As a captain, I feel comfortable that there will be number of knowledgeable people in the hut who I can rely on for advice and guidance."

The 34-year-old Azhar has played 73 test matches and scored 5,669 runs with 15 centuries. □

Women impacting NBA in various roles, 11 assistant coaches

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

Associated Press

Practice is over and Boston Celtics assistant coach Kara Lawson is still working. She stands under the basket rebounding, giving feedback to rookie guard Carsen Edwards as he shoots from different spots on the court. After swishing his final three attempts, he jogs over to her.

"Thanks coach," Edwards says before exchanging a high-five with Lawson.

Welcome to the new-look NBA, in which women are impacting every aspect of the game — from broadcasting booths, officiating, coaching on the sidelines, front-office executives to ownership.

Lawson is one of a record 11 women serving as assistant coaches in the NBA this season. Former WNBA star Swin Cash, along with Seattle Storm star Sue Bird, are working in NBA front offices.

"It's not a fad," said Basketball Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman. "It's opportunities going to very accomplished women who have given their life to the game."

While it may not be a fad, it is a recent trend.

Lieberman remembers a time when the presence of women was hard to spot or at best found only behind the scenes.

The 61-year-old — who has broken barriers as a player, a coach in the WNBA, head coach in NBA G League and assistant in the NBA — learned quickly that building relationships was key to erasing gender hurdles and opening opportunities in the league. That, along with an occasional assist from forward thinking men like former coach Don Nelson, who in 2009 hired her as the head coach of the Texas Legends, the Dallas Mavericks' G League affiliate.

Several have continued Nelson's vision, including San Antonio Spurs Gregg Popovich, who made Becky Hammon the NBA's first full-time assistant in 2014; current Mavericks' coach Rick Carlisle hired Jenny Boucek



In this July 1, 2019, file photo, Boston Celtics assistant coach Kara Lawson passes the ball at the team's training facility in Boston.

Associated Press

as an assistant in 2017; and the Sacramento Kings hired three women as assistants (Lieberman, Boucek and Lindsay Harding).

The BIG3, spearheaded by founder and entertainer Ice Cube, is helping to normalize the idea of women leading men, Lieberman said. "I remember Donnie did an interview and he said, 'Maybe the best man for the job isn't a man at all.' He had a list of criteria he wanted to hit for his head coach. And I hit those," Lieberman said.

The women garner respect from players for their experience and basketball knowledge.

Celtics guard Gordon Hayward said Lawson, a former star at Tennessee and in the WNBA, has already made her presence felt.

"She's been good as far as just the experience she has as a basketball player," Hayward said. "Reading the game and kind of little things she sees coaching on the sideline. Having somebody that well-versed in basketball, that experience is good."

Wizards assistant Kristi Toliver helped the Washington Mystics win their first WNBA

championship this month. On the sideline, Washington NBA All-Stars John Wall and Bradley Beal were wearing the Wizard assistant's WNBA jersey and dancing from the stands.

"The biggest thing I learned is to share your voice and what you've learned," Toliver said. "Doing that has helped me communicate with my guys."

Toliver is in a unique salary situation since she coaches for the Wizards and plays for the Mystics — both owned by same franchise. She was only paid about \$10,000 with the Wizards last year because of WNBA salary cap rules. WNBA teams can only pay all their players a combined \$50,000 in the offseason to supplement pay and Washington only had \$10,000 left to pay Toliver.

There are no such hiccups in New Orleans, where Pelicans guard Frank Jackson said he always expected to benefit from Cash, a senior executive, and Naismith Hall of Famer Teresa Weatherspoon, who was recently hired as an assistant this season.

Cash won two NCAA titles at Connecticut in 2000 and

last year. Cash believes the NBA is realizing more women on staff is important to growing the league's overall brand, business and bottom line. "The reality is and the statistics prove it, is that having women included in your business helps you get more inclusion, helps you get the diversity you need," she said. "Diversity of thought, not just black, white, Asian, Latino, whatever."

Stephanie Ready, a former assistant in the then D-League, said a big factor in the opportunities for women comes from the younger generation of NBA executives, such as 76ers general manager Elton Brand. She said the new crop of hiring managers do a better job of recognizing what women bring to the table. "Some people will age out," said Ready, who was among the first women hired as an assistant coach for a men's team at Coppin State, a former broadcaster with the Charlotte Hornets and now covers the NBA for TNT and Yahoo. "By that I mean the old regime of men who thought that only men could do these jobs."

Richard Lapchick, who tracks racial and gender hiring numbers for the NBA, NFL, NHL and MLB, has long lauded the NBA as a leader in gender hiring practices. He credits the leadership of NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who said the league needed to increase the number female coaches and referees in the NBA.

Along with the record number of female assistants, five female referees will be working NBA games this season.

Lapchick also believes the NBA will soon have its first female head coach. Whether that is Hammon in San Antonio remains to be seen. But whoever it is, Lapchick said the move would go a long way in putting even more women in position to make basketball decisions.

"I'd be surprised if it doesn't happen before the next season," he said, "or during the next season." □

Chinese snooping tech spreads to nations vulnerable to abuse

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) —

When hundreds of video cameras with the power to identify and track individuals started appearing in the streets of Belgrade as part of a major surveillance project, some protesters began having second thoughts about joining anti-government demonstrations in the Serbian capital.

Local authorities assert the system, created by Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, helps reduce crime in the city of 2 million. Critics contend it erodes personal freedoms, makes political opponents vulnerable to retribution and even exposes the country's citizens to snooping by the Chinese government.

The cameras, equipped with facial recognition technology, are being rolled out across hundreds of cities around the world, particularly in poorer countries with weak track records on human rights where Beijing has increased its influence through big business deals. With the United States claiming that Chinese state authorities can get backdoor access to Huawei data, the aggressive rollout is raising concerns about the privacy of millions of people in countries with little power to stand up to China.

"The system can be used to trail political opponents, monitor regime critics at any moment, which is completely against the law," said Serbia's former commissioner for personal data protection, Rodoljub Sasic. Groups opposed to Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic say police are leaking video of protests to pro-government media, which publish the images, along with the identities of participants. Vucic himself has boasted the police have the capability to count "each head" at anti-government gatherings. During a recent rally, protesters climbed up a pole and covered a camera lens with duct tape scrawled with the word "censored."



In this photo taken Sept. 25, 2019, high-tech video cameras hang from an office building in downtown Belgrade, Serbia.

Associated Press

Serbian police deny any such abuse of the Huawei system, which will eventually encompass 1,000 cameras in 800 locations throughout Belgrade. Huawei said in a statement that it "complies with all applicable laws and regulations" in Serbia and anywhere else it does business.

While facial recognition technology is being adopted in many countries, spurring debate over the balance between privacy and safety, the Huawei system has gained extra attention due to accusations that Chinese laws requiring companies to assist in national intelligence work give authorities access to its data.

As a result, some countries are reconsidering using Huawei technology, particularly the superfast 5G networks that are being rolled out later this year.

Still, Huawei, which denies accusations of any Chinese government control, has had no trouble finding customers eager to install its so-called Safe Cities technology, particularly among countries that China has brought closer into its diplomatic and economic orbit. Besides Serbia, that list includes Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Angola, Laos, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Uganda, as well as a

few liberal democracies like Germany, France and Italy. The system is used in some 230 cities, exposing tens of millions of people to its screening.

In a promotional brochure, Huawei says its video surveillance technology can scan over long distances to detect "abnormal behavior" such as loitering, track the movement of cars and people, calculate crowd size and send alerts to a command center if it detects something suspicious. Local authorities can then act upon the information they receive.

In one case advertised on its website, the company says a suspect in a hit-and-run accident in Belgrade was later discovered in China with the help of face recognition data shared by the Serbian police with their Chinese counterparts. In view of the cybersecurity accusations leveled by the U.S. and international rights groups against Huawei, the relationship between China and countries that use the company's technology is coming under renewed scrutiny.

China's influence in Serbia, a European Union candidate that Beijing views as a gateway to the continent, has significantly expanded in recent years through Beijing's global Belt and Road

investment programs. The populist Serbian regime has been keen to develop closer ties and the country's fragile democracy allows China's economic interests to grow relatively unchecked, without raising too many questions about human rights, environmental standards or transparency. China's state investment bank has granted billions of dollars in easy-term loans to build coal-powered plants, roads, railroads and bridges. Chinese police officers even help patrol the streets of Belgrade, a security presence officially billed as assisting the growing number of Chinese tourists who visit the city.

It's a similar story in Uganda, where China has invested heavily in infrastructure like highways and a hydropower dam on the Nile. When longtime President Yoweri Museveni launched a \$126-million project to install Huawei facial recognition systems a year ago, he said the cameras were "eyes, ears and a nose" to fight rampant street crime in the sprawling capital, Kampala. Opposition activists say the real goal is to deter street protesters against an increasingly unpopular government.

"The cameras are politically motivated," said Joel Ssenyonyi, a spokesman for the musician and activist known as Bobi Wine who has emerged as a powerful challenger to Museveni. "They are not doing this for security. The focus for them is hunting down political opponents."

In neighboring Kenya, the government has also renewed its focus on public safety after a spate of extremist attacks. It has been pushing to register people digitally, including by recording DNA, iris and facial data. To do so, it turned to China, which helped finance the installation of surveillance cameras in Kenya as far back as 2012.

The Kenyan government wants to pool into one database all the information from public and private CCTV cameras, including those with facial recognition technology, a move that activists warn would vastly expand its surveillance powers in a country that does not have comprehensive data protection laws.

The group says at least 75 countries are actively using AI tools such as facial recognition for surveillance — and Huawei has sold its systems in 50 of those countries, giving it a far wider reach than competitors such as Japan-based NEC and U.S.-based IBM.

"It's very unclear what safeguards are being put in place," said Steven Feldstein, a Carnegie Endowment fellow who authored a report on the issue. "Where are images being stored? How long are they being stored for? What kind of accountability procedures will there be? What type of operations will be linked to these surveillance cameras?"

Huawei said in an emailed statement that it "complies with all applicable laws and regulations in our countries of business. This is the most fundamental principle of our business operations. We are dedicated to bringing people better connectivity, eliminating digital gaps, and promoting the sustainable development of our societies and economies." □

Stocks slip as first big week of earnings heads to a finish

By ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

Technology companies led a slide in stocks on Wall Street Friday afternoon as investors weighed a mix of company earnings reports. The selling erased some of the market's gains from a day earlier. Still, the S&P 500 was on track to end a choppy week of trading with its second straight weekly gain.

Communication services stocks also accounted for a big slice of the selling. Facebook dropped 2.3% and Netflix lost 5.9%.

Boeing led industrial sector stocks following news that the aircraft manufacturer waited months to disclose troubling internal communications between two of its employees about the company's now-grounded 737 Max jet. Boeing lost 4.8%.

Financial companies were the biggest gainers, with State Street leading the way after the bank reported third-quarter results that beat Wall Street's forecasts. State Street rose 5.2%.

Other stocks rose following solid earnings reports. ETrade Financial climbed 5.3% after reporting surprisingly good third-quarter profit. Oilfield services company Schlumberger rose 1.5% and lifted energy stocks.



In this Oct. 2, 2019, file photo specialist William Geier works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index was down 0.2% as of 1:50 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 155 points, or 0.6%, to 26,870. The Nasdaq lost 0.7%. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks fell 0.5%.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 1.75%.

WINNING WEEK: The market has been choppy all week as investors shift their focus to the latest round of corporate earnings. Stocks are still higher for the week thanks to a big gain on

Tuesday, when several major banks released impressive results, including JPMorgan Chase.

The S&P 500 is on track for a 0.7% gain this week following last week's 0.6% rise.

Smaller stocks are once again set to outpace the broader market in a sign that investors are growing more confident. The Russell 2000 is on track for a 1.5% gain this week after rising 0.8% last week.

EARNINGS: Investors mostly applauded the opening round of company earnings this week and tempo-

rarily brushed aside worries over the ongoing U.S.-China trade war. Health insurer UnitedHealth Group reported solid earnings, as did Netflix.

The early round of mostly good results could help calm investors' fears about another dismal forecast for earnings growth. Analysts expect profit to contract by nearly 5% for companies within the S&P 500, according to FactSet. But, forecasts for declines in the first and second quarters were tempered as reporting progressed and companies

Associated Press

finished those earnings seasons with tiny contractions instead.

SATISFYING SODA: Coca-Cola rose 2.1% after the company edged out Wall Street's third-quarter revenue forecasts on improved sales of Coca-Cola Zero Sugar and other drinks.

RECALLED POWDER: Johnson & Johnson fell 5.3% after the company said it is recalling a single lot of its baby powder because a test found trace amounts of asbestos in one bottle.

The recall comes as J&J fights thousands of lawsuits in which plaintiffs claim its iconic baby powder was contaminated with asbestos and that it caused ovarian cancer or another rare cancer.

OVERSEAS: Stock indexes in Europe were broadly lower ahead of a weekend vote by Britain's Parliament on the latest proposed deal covering its exit from the European Union. Britain is set to leave the trading block on Oct. 31.

Markets in Asia finished lower as new data indicated that growth in China sank to a 26-year low in the latest quarter. The world's second-largest economy is dealing with a slowdown in consumer demand and economic growth brought on partly by the damaging trade war with the U.S. □

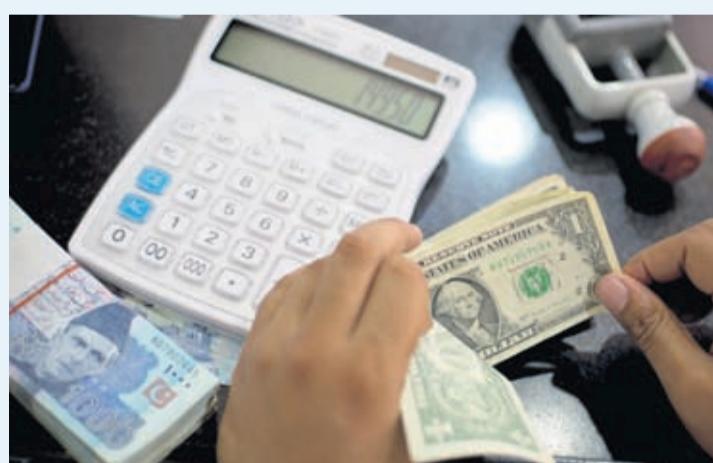
US-China trade war weighing on world's growth, IMF says

By ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

The global economy is slowing, largely because of the U.S. trade war with China, according to the 189-member International Monetary Fund.

The Washington-based institution is the world's lender of last resort, providing emergency loans when countries face financial crisis. In its latest forecast the IMF blamed higher tariffs as a key driver of this year's slowdown in global economic growth.

Growing uncertainty over trade and rising geopolitical tensions also underlie the IMF's new forecast for global economic growth



In this May 17, 2019, file photo US dollars are counted at a currency exchange in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Associated Press

to slow to 3% this year. That would be the weakest performance since 2009, when the global economy contracted 0.1% in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis.

The IMF predicts U.S. growth will slow to 2.4% this year from 2.9% in 2018. It also forecasts an increase of only 2.1% next year,

even as it expects global economic growth to rebound 3.4% in 2020.

The trade war between the U.S. and China has dragged on for 15 months. Along the way, the two sides have raised import duties on billions of dollars of each other's goods and threatened to pile on more later this year.

Uncertainty over when the conflict might be resolved has roiled financial markets and fueled fears that the dispute might tip the global economy into recession. Tensions seemed to ease Oct. 11, when a new round of trade negotiations saw the U.S. agree to suspend a planned hike

in tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods that had been set to kick on Oct. 15. In exchange, Beijing agreed to buy \$40 billion to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products. "Really nothing came out of those talks of consequence," said Adam Taback, deputy chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank. "The best outcome that we got was a lack of further escalation, for the time being."

Among the issues still to be worked out include U.S. allegations that China forces foreign countries to hand over trade secrets in return for access to its market. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7	2		9	3						
		4			8							9
3												
5	4										6	1
8	2									9	4	
4											6	
									1	5		
								9	6	7	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	4	6	9	3	2	5	7	8				
7	3	9	1	8	5	4	2	6				
8	2	5	6	4	7	9	3	1				
2	9	3	4	5	6	1	8	7				
5	7	8	3	9	1	6	4	2				
6	1	4	7	2	8	3	9	5				
4	5	1	8	7	9	2	6	3				
3	8	2	5	6	4	7	1	9				
9	6	7	2	1	3	8	5	4				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1 4 6 9 3 2 5 7 8
7 3 9 1 8 5 4 2 6
8 2 5 6 4 7 9 3 1
2 9 3 4 5 6 1 8 7
5 7 8 3 9 1 6 4 2
6 1 4 7 2 8 3 9 5
4 5 1 8 7 9 2 6 3
3 8 2 5 6 4 7 1 9
9 6 7 2 1 3 8 5 4

ACROSS

1 African nation
5 Fight off
10 Under the weather
14 "From ___ to Eternity", Burt Lancaster film
15 Banish
16 Krakow native
17 Painting & dancing
18 Corridor
20 Luau dish
21 May honoree
22 Hops
23 Becomes unraveled
25 Ruby or scarlet
26 Prickly plants
28 Wichita's state
31 Permissible
32 Unadorned
34 Tennis court divider
36 Enthusiastic
37 "This too ___ pass"
38 Asterisk
39 Sheep's cry
40 Walk away with
41 Hit hard
42 Beasts of the Andes
44 Cool dessert
45 ___ into; rammed
46 Latin American dance
47 Coal fragment
50 Actress ___-Na Wen
51 TV crime drama series
54 Walking leisurely
55 Dock
58 Wild feline
59 Sudden forward rush
60 Conversation
61 High-pitched barks
62 Linear measure
63 " ___ well that ends well"

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/19/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	P	D	S	N	A	P	E	C	H	O
A	V	O	I	D	P	O	L	O	S	W	O
M	E	L	E	A	G	I	T	A	T	O	N
P	R	Y	C	A	N	S	T	A	C	K	S
G	R	A	B	S	H	O	T				
P	A	R	A	D	H	O	N	E	S	T	
I	R	A	T	E	G	R	A	T	O	F	
T	I	P	S	L	O	M	S	F	U	S	
A	S	H	I	N	T	S	G	E	T	T	
E	S	C	A	P	E	D	A	S	H	E	
L	B	S		V	E	R	S				
A	D	R	O	I	T	A	N	D	R	N	
B	E	A	U	T	I	F	E	R	N	I	E
A	M	I	D	C	A	F	E	N	I	C	E
T	I	N	Y	K	O	T	P	R	E	P	

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10/19/19

40 Hurt
41 Melody
43 Stadiums
44 "Away in a ___"
46 Slight staining
47 Notice
48 Hawaiian island
49 ___ into; collide with
50 Make money
52 Peddle
53 Irritates
55 American ___;
ND's state tree
56 Actress
McClanahan
57 School parents' org.

Arkansas track plans to end greyhound racing by end of 2022

By ANDREW DeMILLO
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — An east Arkansas track agreed Thursday to phase out greyhound racing over the next three years, citing a decline in dog racing nationally and fears that the state's voters would approve ending the practice. The Arkansas Racing Commission unanimously approved a plan by Southland Casino Racing to end greyhound racing at the West Memphis track by Dec. 31, 2022. Southland said it had reached an agreement with the Arkansas Greyhound Kennel Association, which has 16 members who own and operate kennels of greyhounds that race at the track. "We want to avoid a disruptive and abrupt end to live racing to the benefit of all parties, including everyone who has a job at stake," Robert Thorne, president of the Arkansas Greyhound Kennel Association, said in a statement.

Southland, the state's only greyhound track, has conducted greyhound races in West Memphis since 1956. Under the plan, Southland would still offer casino gambling under a constitutional amendment voters approved last year. Southland in January announced it was building a \$250 million casino complex and high-rise hotel at its facility.

Southland's request noted that Florida voters last year approved an end to greyhound racing in that state by 2021 and that greyhound racing currently exists in only six states. "There are threats of a similar campaign to end greyhound racing in Arkansas through an initiated amendment to the Arkansas Constitution," the track's proposal said. "If the question of ending live greyhound racing in Arkansas is put before the voters, there is a significant possibility that it would be approved." The phase-out at Southland will begin next year, with the track going from 6,656 races this year to 4,992 next year and reducing each year after that. David Wolf, Southland's president and general manager, said the phase-out will provide enough time for about 1,200 greyhounds that race at the track to be adopted. "We know it's going to take time to adopt out the greyhounds, and our commitment is to make sure every greyhound that has raced at Southland finds its forever home," Wolf said in a statement. Gov. Asa Hutchinson said he was pleased Southland and the association reached a "mutually beneficial" agreement and applauded the commission for approving the terms of the deal. State Sen. Keith Ingram, a Democrat from

West Memphis, said the plan gives the kennel owners time to prepare for the end of racing at the track. "There's no question that the casino gaming is the big end and it's going to continue to grow," Ingram said. "I think what this agreement does is it gives (kennel owners) a soft landing."

Animal rights groups hailed Arkansas' decision, calling it another sign of greyhound racing's decline across the country. "It's

now clear that greyhound racing will end completely in the United States," GREY2 USA, a greyhound protection group, said in a statement. The Massachusetts-based group said the debate over greyhound racing will now turn to West Virginia, where lawmakers next year are expected to take up legislation that could end the practice in that state. □



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Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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First all-female spacewalking team makes history

By MARCIA DUNN

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— The world's first all-female spacewalking team made history high above Earth on Friday, replacing a broken part of the International Space Station's power grid. As NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir completed the job with wrenches, screwdrivers and power-grip tools, it marked the first time in a half-century of spacewalking that men weren't part of the action. They insisted they were just doing their job after years of training. America's first female spacewalker from 35 years ago, Kathy Sullivan, was delighted. She said it's good to finally have enough women in the astronaut corps and trained for spacewalking for this to happen.

"We've got qualified women running the control, running space centers, commanding the station, commanding spaceships and doing spacewalks," Sullivan told The Associated Press earlier this week. "And golly, gee whiz, every now and then there's more than one woman in the same place." President Donald Trump put in a congratulatory call from the White House to mark "this historic event ... truly historic."



In this photo provided by NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir exits the International Space Station on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

"What you do is incredible. You're very brave people," Trump told them as they wrapped up their spacewalk.

Replied Meir: "We don't want to take too much credit because there have been many others — female spacewalkers — before us. This is just the first time that there have been two women outside at the same time ... For us, this is really just us doing our job." NASA leaders, Girl Scouts and others also cheered Koch and Meir on. Parents also sent in messages of thanks and encouragement via social media. NASA included some in its TV coverage. "Go girls go,"

two young sisters wrote on a sign in crayon. A group of middle schoolers held a long sign reading "The sky is not the limit!!"

At the same time, many expressed hope this will become routine in the future. Tracy Caldwell Dyson, a three-time spacewalker who looked on from Mission Control in Houston, added: "Hopefully, this will now be considered normal." NASA originally wanted to conduct an all-female spacewalk last spring, but did not have enough medium-size suits ready to go until summer. Koch and Meir were supposed to install more new batteries in a spacewalk next week, but

had to venture out three days earlier to deal with an equipment failure that occurred over the weekend. It was the second such failure of a battery charger this year, puzzling engineers and putting a hold on future battery installations for the solar power system. NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine watched the big event unfold from Washington headquarters. "We have the right people doing the right job at the right time," he said. "They are an inspiration to people all over the world including me. And we're very excited to get this mission underway."

Speaker of the House Nan-

cy Pelosi sent congratulations to Koch and Meir "for leaving their mark on history" and tweeted that they're an inspiration to women and girls across America. "Jessica and Christina, we are so proud of you," said Morgan, one of four astronauts inside. He called them his "astrosisters."

Spacewalking is widely considered the most dangerous assignment in orbit. Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano, who operated the station's robot arm from inside during Friday's spacewalk, almost drowned in 2013 when his helmet flooded with water from his suit's cooling system.

"Everyone ought to be sending some positive vibes by way of airwaves to space for these two top-notch spacewalkers," Dyson said early in the spacewalk. Meir, a marine biologist making her spacewalking debut, became the 228th person in the world to conduct a spacewalk and the 15th woman. It was the fourth spacewalk for Koch, an electrical engineer who is seven months into an 11-month mission that will be the longest ever by a woman. Both are members of NASA's Astronaut Class of 2013, the only one equally split between women and men. □



In this Friday, Oct. 4, 2019 photo, a man using an electronic cigarette exhales in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

Associated Press

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Vaping-related illnesses still rising, though at slower pace

By MIKE STOBBE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Vaping-related illnesses in the U.S. are still rising, though at a slightly slower pace.

Health officials of Thursday said there have been 1,479 cases and at least 33 deaths in the mysterious outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been releasing new case counts each week.

The latest jump — 180 cases — was the lowest increase since mid-September.

But CDC officials say there's no indication that the outbreak is waning.

The outbreak appears to have started in March. Symptoms of the illness include severe shortness of breath, fatigue, and chest pain.

No single ingredient, electronic cigarette or vaping device has been linked to all the

illnesses.

Most who got sick said they vaped products containing THC, the high-inducing ingredient in marijuana.

Investigators say they are increasingly focused on black-market THC products.

About 1 in 10 of the outbreak cases said they used only nicotine but that percentage has been falling.

It was 13% last week.

In some cases, people who initially claimed they had used only nicotine admitted later they had vaped THC.

Until a cause is pinpointed, the CDC is advising Americans to refrain from vaping.

Forty-nine states and one U.S. territory have reported illnesses.

Only Alaska has not seen a case.

The vast majority of cases are people in their teens, 20s or early 30s, according to the CDC. □

Dave Matthews reacts to getting Rock Hall nomination



This May 4, 2019 file photo shows Dave Matthews of the Dave Matthews Band performing at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans.

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dave Matthews is having a hard time imagining his band being included on the same Rock & Roll Hall of Fame list as other musical icons such as Whitney Houston.

The Dave Matthews Band frontman said their recent nomination for the Hall's 2020 class was unexpected and a "little bit insane." He said he feels honored to be amongst music's elite while promoting his newly-launched board games called Chickapig and 25 Outlaws.

"It's a real honor," Matthews told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Even if they stick us in a holding pen for a few years, that's OK. Just to get on that list. I can't believe I'm on a list with Whitney Houston, Motorhead and T. Rex. That's pretty awesome."

The seven-member band is among 16 acts nominated, a list that also includes Soundgarden, The Doobie Brothers, Nine Inch Nails, Judas Priest, Thin Lizzy, Rufus featuring Chaka Khan, Depeche Mode, Kraftwerk, MC5 and Todd Rundgren. The 35th annual induction ceremony will take place May 2 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The official inductees will be announced earlier in January.

Matthews called this mo-

ment of his life exciting, especially with the release of the board games he created with Brian Calhoun, a longtime friend and business partner. The singer-guitarist said they got into the board game business to create a product to bring families and friends together with the hopes of putting their cell phones down.

"So if the end of times comes, not saying that it's going to happen, but if it does happen and all of our phones die, we can play Chickapig," Matthews joked. "We won't be completely lost."

Chickapig is being dubbed a lightly strategic social chess game that features chicken-pig hybrids that attempt to maneuver past hay bales and a pooping cow. The game is designed for people aged above 4. 25 Outlaws is based on poker, but with a "Wild West" twist. This game is more suited for younger adults and older players since they are tasked with trying to eliminate rival outlaw gangs.

Both games are currently on sale in major retail stores. Calhoun also has a children's book called "Little Joe Chickapig," which is seeded from the Chickapig board game.

Calhoun, a popular guitar maker, came up with the Chickapig concept in 2013

after family and friends said they were tired of playing "boring" games. A month later, he invented the board game. It ended up becoming popular through grassroots efforts with the help of Matthews.

"It was probably a year of just our friends and families playing without talking about commercializing," said Calhoun, who made high-end acoustic guitars for musicians including Matthews, Brandi Carlile, Keith Urban and Jason Mraz. "I mean, he joked it's going to be the next Monopoly. But this game was just this fun thing that brought people together in the early days."

Much like his guitars, Calhoun custom-made the board game pieces in his Virginia-based guitar shop. "You don't expect when your friend glues wood together in his basement, rolls over to your house and have invented this game," said Matthews, who drew the box cover art for 25 Outlaws, which was named by this 12-year-old son at the time. Matthews believes their board games can thrive in a growing industry. "It's maybe not what it once was, but it's growing because people like to hang out with each other. And often, when we put our phones down, we're not as practiced at hanging out with each other. So this is a way to just hang out." □

Associated Press



This image from video taken on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019 shows Laura Lyle participating in the 2nd annual "Gigi's Playhouse Fashion Show" in New York.

Associated Press

Fashion show lets Down syndrome models strut their stuff

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — One model sashayed down the runway with a leather jacket and a guitar, basking in applause from the crowd. Another danced and strutted in a multicolored bomber coat.

A toddler had a little help with her modeling turn, holding on to an adult as she wore a peach outfit with a tutu. And another young woman wore a leopard coat over a T-shirt with the message: "Go Love Yourself."

Though New York's Fashion Week wrapped more than a month ago, there was plenty of fierce fashion at the second annual "Gigi's Playhouse Fashion Show" on Wednesday, an event that allows young people with Down syndrome to share their talent.

Gigi's Playhouse is a national education and achievement center that prepares young people with Down syndrome, from infants to teens, to engage more fully in their homes, schools and communities. Eileen McClary, an associate for the New York chapter and director of the fashion show, said the event was an effort to let its members be advocates for the center. "I think it's clear from all of the models that it was a wild success, and it kind of blends the two intersections of my life, which are philanthropy and fashion," she said.

Laura Lyle, 16, one of the models, was beaming after the show.

"It was really fun. I loved walking down, showing everybody the outfits, and I feel like we're making a difference," she said.

Malik Jabbar, 15, who modeled last year, said some of the participants may have found their next calling. "We walked down the aisle, we see beautiful faces, and the smiles on (all of) us," he said. "In the future, we'll all become the next top 10 models."

An after-party helped raise money for the chapter. While there were lots of hands needed to put on the event, including Gigi's Playhouse staff, Bloomingdale's and volunteers, McClary said seeing all the happy faces on the catwalk and in the audience made it all worth it.

"It just shows the power and just involvement of this (Down syndrome) community, and I can't wait to do more things with them," she said. "To me, it's one of the most inspiring things that you could ever be a part of. ... All of these models are some of the happiest people I've ever come in contact with. And if you ever want to feel joy like I think this entire store felt tonight, you can be a part of this." □

New HBO series 'Watchmen' hopes to match original's ambition

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Damon Lindelof didn't take lightly the challenge of adapting the most acclaimed graphic novel of all time. The "Lost" and "The Leftovers" co-creator was a fan of the revered "Watchmen" book ever since his father handed him the first few issues when he was 13 in the mid-1980s. So agreeing to spearhead HBO's new ad-

aptation didn't come without a bout or two of nerves. "There was immense trepidation and it was never overcome," he told The Associated Press. "Trepidation is actually our greatest asset."

Lindelof will see how he's done when the first of his nine-episode "Watchmen" follow-up debuts Sunday and the fanboys and fangirls weigh in. They will find many things created in



his image released by HBO shows Regina King in a scene from "Watchmen," premiering on Oct. 20.

Associated Press

their honor.

"The end result is something that is hopefully accessible to people who don't have an intimate familiarity with 'Watchmen,' but there's constant love letters and acknowledgments that we are building upon the foundation of this masterpiece," said Lindelof.

The creators have managed to lure an eclectic list of actors, including Regina King, Jeremy Irons, Louis Gossett Jr., Jean Smart, Tim Blake Nelson and Don Johnson.

It proved a formidable task to build on writer Alan Moore's and illustrator Dave Gibbons' dark superhero tale, which follows a group of masked vigilantes who uncover a vast conspiracy after one of their own is killed in an alternate-history America. Superheroes are banned and have gone underground.

Before they wrote a line of script for the new series, Lindelof and his team of 12 writers carefully plotted over 10 weeks what happened to that alternate world in the decades until 2019. "It's a history that's just adjacent to our own with some significant major aberrations," he said.

In the original series, America won the Vietnam War and turned that country into a state. President John F. Kennedy is still assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963, but Richard Nixon remained president until 1988 after successfully abolishing term limits. Actor Robert Redford was running for president against Nixon.

As a result, the new series paints a bleak portrait of race relations in America, with well-intentioned good guys fighting an endless wave of white supremacy. Its carefully crafted scripts explore vigilantism, torture and even eugenics.

"It had to be bold and it had to take risks and it had to be surprising and it had to be a little bit unsafe," Lindelof said. "And so if we were feeling unsafe writing it, that was sort of an essential emotional component of the storytelling."

The look of the show matches the mood, with a sense of dread punctuated by action sequences. Nicole Kassell, who directed the pilot and episodes two and eight, was led by Gibbons' original vertical comic panels.

"It was absolutely inspiring to look at the framing of the comic and knowing that if I could pay homage to that as often as possible, it would really delight the fans," she said.

There are so-called Easter eggs throughout. In one scene, King's character is in a kitchen and the script calls for her to crack several eggs in a bowl and, for a millisecond, make a smile from the yolks. That's a nod to an iconic image from the comic — the yellow smiley face.

The original comics also were bursting with social and historical references, with plenty of varied musical allusions. Lindelof and his team have matched that ambition, with references to everything from Greek tragedies to Rodgers & Hammerstein musicals. The soundtrack includes the Bee Gees, Beastie Boys, Eartha Kitt, Devo and Tchaikovsky.

It's a challenging work and complex to watch. No wonder adapting "Watchmen" well has long eluded Hollywood. But Lindelof and his team have avoided one pitfall of director Zack Snyder's "Watchmen" movie of a decade ago — being too reverential to the source material. This new series isn't scared by its legacy. □

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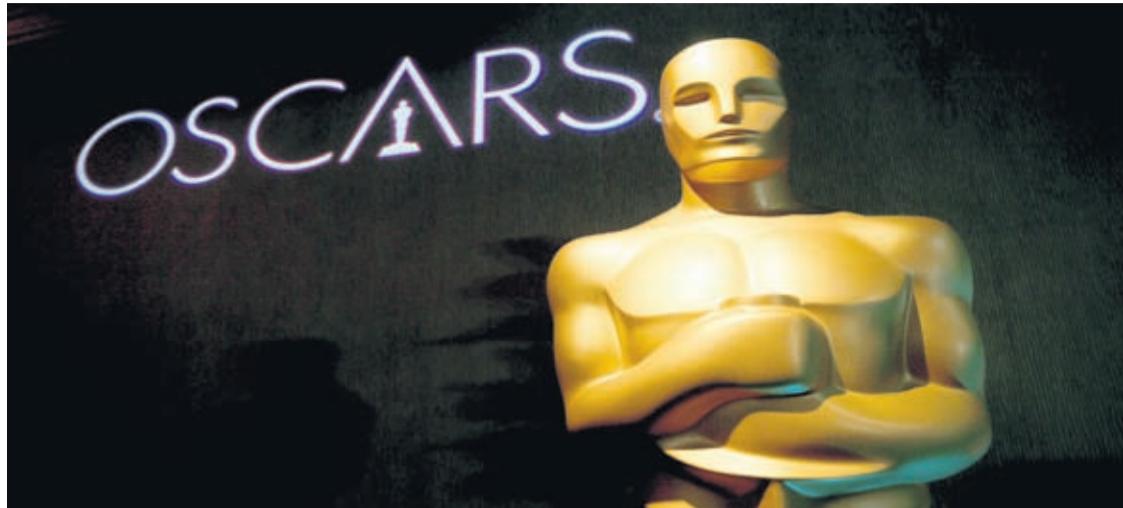
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Film academy honors 16 Student Academy Award winners



In this Feb. 4, 2019 file photo, an Oscar statue appears at the 91st Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif.

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — "I'd like to thank the academy" is a phrase many only ever get to say in front of their bathroom mirrors. But 16 student filmmakers actually got to utter those words on stage Thursday at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science in Beverly Hills.

Not only that: They're all also eligible to compete in the 2020 Academy Awards. That's the power of the Student Academy Awards, an event that is now in its 46th year.

It was an emotional night for many, like Kilee McCollaum of Brigham Young University.

"I never thought those words would come out of my mouth," she said on the stage flanked by two giant Oscar statuettes in the Samuel L. Goldwyn theater. McCollaum won the gold medal for animation for her short, "Grendel." Winners are now eligible for the animated short, live action short and documentary short categories at the Oscars.

Phil Lord and Chris Miller, who co-directed "The Lego Movie," presented the animation awards, deadpanning that "no one ever thanks the presenter."

"I opened three envelopes, I got two paper cuts," Miller said.

Winners join an esteemed list of past Student Academy Award winners like Pete Docter, Cary Fukunaga, Spike Lee, Patricia Riggen and Robert Zemeckis.

"Queen & Slim" director

Melina Matsoukas, who presented the narrative awards, said she had joked earlier about how she was never invited to the awards when she was a film student. "Now I understand why, that was incredible," Matsoukas said, following a highlight reel of the projects.

Zoel Aeschbacher, of Switzerland, took the gold prize in the international narrative category for his drama, "Bonobo," about how a broken elevator affects the residents of a public housing unit.

"I wasn't expecting the gold one," he said, nervously telling the audience that he bought a special suit for the event.

Princess Garrett, of Villanova University, who won for her documentary short, "Sankofa," about the loss of African identity in black males, gave a spirited speech alongside her large crew.

"Being complacent is not the answer," Garrett said. "If you are not fighting to end the problem, you are the problem."

Some were a little less enthusiastic about the spotlight, however.

"After all those speeches I think I might be too shy for this kind of situation," said Yifan Sun, of Poland, who won the gold medal in the international documentary category for "Family," about a girl adopted by a Belgian family who finds her birth family in China. Presenter Rory Kennedy assured her that she did "a fantastic job."

And Asher Jelinsky, who

is gender nonbinary, won the domestic narrative category for "Miller & Son," about a trans woman who works at an auto shop during the day and can be herself at night. Authenticity in casting was of utmost importance to Jelinsky.

"This film would have not been nearly as impactful without your talent," Jelinsky said to the film's star, Jesse James Keitel.

There were 1,615 entries from 360 colleges and universities around the world. Categories recognized include narrative, documentary, animated and alternative/experimental productions by American and international college students.

Winners are voted on by members of the film academy. This year a record 752 members participated.

The Student Academy Awards is a tradition dating back to 1973 that helps spotlight emerging talent. Tickets to the ceremony are free to the public, who stand in line outside hoping to get a spot in the room.

"You are the future of film: a future that is diverse, international and very bright," said film academy president David Rubin. "On behalf of all the members of the academy, we can't wait to see the stories you next tell."

The 2019 Student Academy Award winners:

- "Patron Saint," Georden West, Emerson College
- "Game Changer," Aviv Mano, Ringling College of Art and Design
- "Grendel," Kilee McCollaum, Brigham Young Uni-

versity

— "Two," Emre Okten, University of Southern California

— "Daughter," Daria Kashcheeva, Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts, Prague

— "All That Remains," Eva Rendle, University of California, Berkeley

— "Sankofa," Princess Garrett, Villanova University

— "Something to Say," Abby Lieberman and Joshua Lucas, Columbia University

— "Family," Yifan Sun, The Polish National Film, Televi-

sion and Theatre School, Lodz

— "Miller & Son," Asher Jelinsky, American Film Institute

— "The Chef," Hao Zheng, American Film Institute

— "Tree #3," Omer Ben-Shachar, American Film Institute

— "Bonobo," Zoel Aeschbacher, Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne (ECAL)

— "Dog Eat Dog," Rikke Gregersen, Westerdals Kristiania University College

— "November 1st," Charlie Manton, National Film and Television School. □

'Blues in the Dark' is compelling crime novel

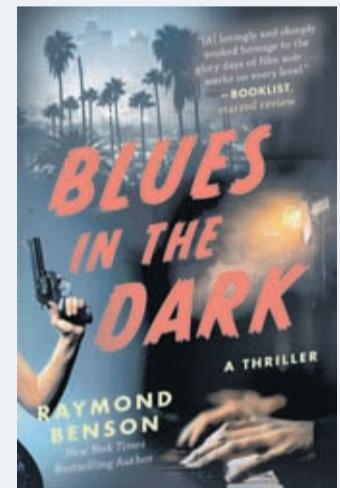
By JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

"Blues in the Dark: a Thriller," Arcade Books, by Raymond Benson

A movie producer who moves to Los Angeles and stumbles upon a story sparks Raymond Benson's look at a turbulent Hollywood of the 1940s with ramifications in the present in "Blues in the Dark." Karissa Glover has just arrived in Los Angeles when she learns of a can't-miss deal on an old mansion that hasn't been lived in since the murder of movie starlet Blair Kendrick in the late 1940s. She barely moves in when she realizes that Kendrick's story needs to be told, so she works with her producing partner to create a film telling the world about this femme fatale who has largely been forgotten.

The chapters alternate between Glover following the path of Kendrick's life when she arrived in Hollywood and the finished film taking the reader into the 1940s. Benson outlines a world of prejudice where women who wanted to become stars were expected to sleep with producers and movie studio executives.

Kendrick wanted to see her name in lights, and when she's offered



This cover image released by Arcade Books shows "Blues in the Dark" by Raymond Benson.

Associated Press

a lucrative contract, she thinks she's made it. When she falls in love with jazz musician Hank Marley, she quickly learns that interracial relationships aren't met by others with fondness. The shifting perspective that contrasts Glover's quest and the resistance she meets to find out what happened to Kendrick with Kendrick's desire to make films and love the man she wants is compelling and heart-breaking. Benson has crafted a noir film inside the pages of a book and the cast of characters in the present and past come vividly to life. He also makes the reader question what is morally just in the midst of a well-written crime drama. □

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